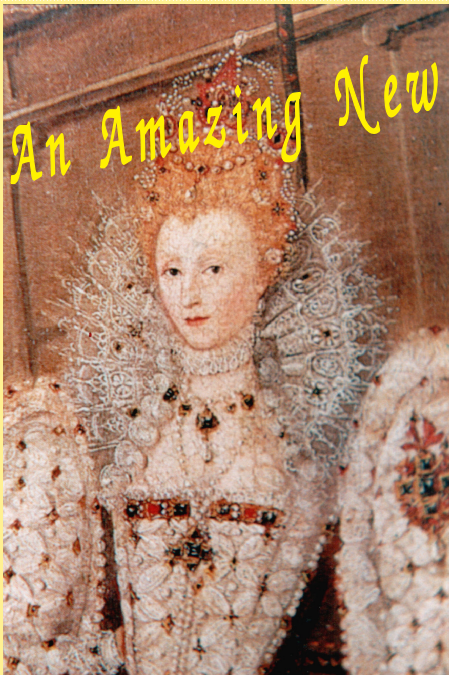


The Shy Queen & the
Psychopathic Queen
**ELIZABETH I &
MARY STUART**



An Amazing New



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Rewriting History

GRAHAM APPLEYARD

New Author

The Shy Queen & the
Psychopathic Queen

**ELIZABETH I & MARY
STUART**

GRAHAM APPLEYARD

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AUTHOR'S FORWARD

EVERYONE KNOWS what Elizabeth; Queen of England from 1558 to 1603 was like. You know the red head that wore wigs, big fancy dresses complete with huge bits of lace around her neck and shouted a lot, plus chopping people's heads if she didn't like them. Yes that one. **MARY STUART** her cousin, (disliked the most) has been the source of great controversy ever since she was executed nearly 500 years ago. She has caused just as much discussion amongst historians and is the most well known Scottish monarch ever, becoming synonymous with Scotland as kilts, bagpipes and whiskey. More importantly she was and still is an inspirational figure, fighting against a whole series of traumatic events. Such as witnessing horrific murders, being falsely accused of them, or having principals; for instance standing up for the Catholic religion, in the face of the Protestantism of her enemies. They ripped from her arms her son, who she never saw again. This same child became heir to both the thrones of England and Scotland and passed, despite having homosexual leanings, the gene that caused the madness of King George, yet secured the Royal pedigree for many generations to come. The Tudor dynasty, despite a strong cast of what people are now calling 'celebrities,' failed completely to do this task, ending up with the Queen of Scots as thus the 'Mother' of many Royal lines.

It doesn't stop there! The definitive romantic figure, Mary had a stream of lovers; largely because of her sometimes acknowledge beauty, making her a beautiful woman to boot, yet not quite a saint. But for Contrary Mary in her Garden (yes she's the nursery rhyme) there has to be a devil in disguise. And that redhead Queen of

England becomes jealous of Mary, because she's not beautiful and can't make kids, treating her as horribly as she could get away with. Using espionage, the new Secret Service to trap her and eliminate her, from the Throne of England, putting her in jail. Defiant as ever, Mary fights back and wins in the end, for the reason that her son takes the Crown. Though she has to pay a high price, still it justifies her death, becoming a martyr for the Catholic religion. And they all lived in the 'Ye Old World' that is flat....

Well it is a plausible story. Incredibly, just like the Flat Earth, most of what you have just read is pure fiction. Nevertheless this tale has triggered a huge growth in debate about the rights and wrongs of her execution. This leading to a vast array of scholarly history books that would fill Buckingham Palace, plus the endless stream of romantic novels, which have been written about her, make sure this saga continues. Sides in this nonsensical debate have been drawn up when telling these life stories, especially when told in films, the medium of the last century. Yet we know those film-makers don't tell true stories, but then do history experts? Antonia Fraser completely fell under the spell, producing one of the highest selling biographies. Despite this truth being more biased, than the Victorian artists who painted Mary's greatest moments. Even a Scottish novel writer, Reay Tannahill, came to that conclusion in a recent novel about her! But this saga is deep rooted in the past; the novelist Jane Austin hated Elizabeth for the murder of her cousin. Mary's fan club is still growing though; she now has even a society of dedicated individuals interested in her. The saga has another angle for Mary becomes a great writer with numbers of people thinking she wrote the sonnets of William Shakespeare!

The utter fiction of her imprisonment has this Scottish woman frequenting many castles and private houses that attract visitors

in there thousands, with her ghost often seen. Living near one and at the time of writing in a road named after her, you might think that I too, would have fallen under her spell. Yet, out of all this mysticism of this story (and that includes all the history books) I came to realise that no-one has come up with a simple explanation why, after some 18 years of questionable imprisonment, she was beheaded by the order of Elizabeth. Everyone from humble tourists to eccentric individuals, who leave chocolate bars on fireplaces where they think she stayed (for her ghost), top historians, like Antonia, and university professors with their students, also have difficulty explaining why that Queen seems to have regretted doing the deed. Does anyone really know?...

I just might!... To me, the truth of Mary's life has to be caught up in negative gossip and lies, even beliefs, of the time period, which need debunking. Later on over the hundreds of years, since the two Queen's deaths in 1587 and 1603, the historical truths become further baffling. What with the saga, a taking of sides, a strange, very odd, (for me) interpretation of the Virgin Queen's life, that many people now understand, confusion thus clouds the truth. Reinterpretation needs to be done. Taking out those things that cause mystification, especially the saga, let's kill that stone dead! **Warning!** This should not be attempted if you have a degree, A-level, or are in higher education establishments! Why? Well I have found, is those who tell the rest of us, when they are doing and have done extensive studies of these two Queens and their contemporaries, appear to be getting things totally wrong!

I will explain why later in much fuller details. I will continue for precisely the reason that I am not academically trained. This turns out to be the advantage, over experts in this field. For

instance, my own abilities and background will turn out to affect the theories on their lives of Mary Stuart and Elizabeth Tudor changing them completely.

You would think that surely after all this time there must be nothing new to say about these two Queens? And that would be right if historical research was democratic and open to all. It simply isn't. History might be written by the winners, however who writes it, is not a cross-section of society I can tell you. Invisible hands guided chronological study and it is they that have indeed shaped our past. A consensus opinion has formed that academics want us to all have faith in. I did not accept, for it didn't make sense to me. As I give details in much simpler ways, you will see changes breaking things apart, turning you against the consensus. I do not accept for one thing you have to have studied history at College or University. If you are reading this from a book by a commercial publisher, they will have broken another consensus to do that.

In this history I've broken the rules for a start, over the English language for one thing. These colourful characters from history wrote and spoke in something that has fundamentally changed; they certainly didn't speak like BBC newsreaders! They talked with accents, wrote in dialects, and you know how difficult that is to understand. Modern words are missing (which they would have used, given the option) having a curious effect and literally changing the meaning on documents, for those reading them now. So I have taken it on myself to counteract this consequence. I had to do; those with degrees think it's wrong. As you won't catch them doing it, anyway I have used paraphrasing in the text of this book, shown by the use of italics, so the three degree lot can say I'm wrong and even point out where! I except this changes the meanings of what these famous people wrote, nonetheless if I did not; you the reader would be lead down

wrong paths. Don't worry too much about this, as you have been all your life if you have read most history books. It's not just words that made false roots in history. Ideas and views have played their roles. With these two women you tend to think about the religious problems between them. I believe this although it's significant; it is not so greater a factor and is not the solution a lot of the professionals (and us) assume. Just think about how important it is to get to the truth about this history. For if we do not we are never going to understand the present. Most of all we/all the people need answers. Not just those 'the high and mighty' (whoever they are?) wants to tell us.

Let me start by opening up this hidden past, though looking for solutions is never easy. I can offer you know special skills, I'm not a detective, though these sorts of skills are what are needed, to the questions like, was Mary guilty of any crimes? Was she a murderess or an accomplice to them, such as treason? After all this, the law said, until 1998, she could be (technically) executed for in England! Still I think I can look at them using no more than common sense! This I would be expected to use if I was sitting on the jury of Mary's trial. A court case that would see her found NOT guilty, according to modern intellectual writers. The facts for this sort of trial come from those that have studied the evidence themselves. None other than academics! I have seen their evidence (from both sides) though I intend to add some better understanding of it, giving you a layman's verdict. These answers, I cannot give, without you knowing why Elizabeth regretted having Mary executed. To seek out the truth, a journey into the past of these two women thus begins not with Mary, but Elizabeth.



*Bette Davis, from the 1955 film *Virgin Queen*, for many is the embodiment of the Queen. This is just a stereotype, that has been created by experts, fooled by Elizabeth's personality.*

Chapter 1

A VERY DIFFERENT WOMAN

As I have investigated certain presented aspects of Elizabeth Tudor's interpreted existence, my explanation of her personality and views on life could alter the present judgment of her. Crucial factors have been ignored or perhaps thought unthinkable for many historians. To me one of them stands out, but before blaming our historians, whom I will shortly, I should point out that Elizabeth's own court appears not to have known.

Before revealing one of those factors it should be pointed out that maybe it's our own education system that is to blame for these shortcomings. I don't mean a lack of funding, or the structure of colleges and universities, neither the school system that feeds them. I think and believe that in most cases the system itself has had this side effect, if you like. What side effect, you might be thinking? Well it seems to remove rational thinking from people and common sense! We often hear of individuals reevaluating things from the past. Sometimes this is due to a scientific breakthrough that nobody has any control over. More often than not some new piece of what they call 'documentary evidence' turns up. This could be a scrap of paper, or a bill. A whole new light can shine on a person or incidents in history from a small note; somebody lost, or discarded. It sometimes is something special, I'll not deny that. Nevertheless can it be more important than we are led to believe or even less? The general public can be fooled, just look at the rubbish in the Da Vinci Code, but they aren't the only ones. Sometimes these pieces of

paper turn out fakes. Who gets the blame, not the education system, money (greed) is cited over and over again. It's not just new information that gets this treatment, the records of accounts of all our lives are subject to this processing, more so when we can no longer answer for ourselves.

This pressing need for documentary proof can stop history being written, it's so elaborate that even popular archaeology has to have vast funds to dig up an Elizabethan toilet, with its contents! Historical documents and records are so varied and now scattered all over the world, that you need more funds to locate them. Those that have them are getting more protective of them, needing more funds to house and keep them. In the end all that happens is a select group of people can access them and comment and read and write about them. The laws of copyright even help them do it. Nobody of course wants anyone to lose money and have their work ripped off. Nevertheless these laws may be helping them mislead people, unintentionally of course. However those at the top of society, in England anyway, have the worst record of them all, why for instance, should the Queen's copyright never run out?

Why does all this affect the way we see Elizabeth Tudor and all the others in the past? Would you like to be judged on your school reports, your medical files or your tax returns? That's how academic historians tend to see people. The university trained type, using this technique, seem to lose all knowledge of how real people act and behave, they can be fooled, as well. Often by their own and they tend to pick up wrong theories easily, inventing new ones, to fit in with a current trend. They never look at simple explanations till they are forced too. Don't also think that those nice people who dig up things are any better! TV programmes that have made archaeology popular are made by university professors. Really think about what they are saying.

Again what would the foundations of your house say about you! Would the foundation of Big Ben tell you there was a clock in it! Could the foundations of Buckingham Palace be described in the future as a hunting lodge? Then again together with historical records you would think that the truth could be pieced together using both?

So these two sides of past creation have got together and in Elizabeth's case they have created so powerful an image and getting around this is going to be hard. I need to convince you the reader, not to compare other popular views on this Queen, or even look at the paintings of her. For despite my limited education, for as I said, I did not go to university, or even through it, this has enabled me to look at their research/work on both Elizabeth and Mary. The lack of training, in professional techniques, helped me correct and sorts this mess up. Whilst those who produce it in the first place, can continue into sucking people into a trap, which for those in higher education has no-way out, like flies in the Venus plant. More to the point they can not see it either. Why? Well it's so good what they have done, while I, simply because I learnt that their histories are flawed with so many problems, can ignore it. They bungle on, paradoxically like the court officials in the Hans Christian Anderson children's tale of the King's Suit of Clothes, made popular by the Danny Kaye song. Once the theory that the clothes are invisible is lodge in people's minds and that those who cannot see them are 'stupid' even though no one can see them, a belief system takes hold. I and everyone, who reads this book, may think that I might be that young lad, who wasn't told. Or in my case did not get the education, and you and I, might put me in this category. Though I'm sure that not everyone is going to change his or her opinions overnight on how Elizabeth was, or acted. Perhaps some will not change at all, calling me 'stupid.'

Nevertheless I must convince some. I don't see that making Elizabeth into a real person should be confined to my brain, which is where research comes in. Still this must, by sheer necessity, consist at looking at what these 'experts' (though I will use that term in the weakest way possible) have written in the way of books, or whatever I could access. The original papers or records are kept safe from such as me. Indeed going to see them could cost and constitute many months' wages for many people. This all might seem a great drawback to many people, or that I come from a 'disadvantaged' background. Yet I take this to be a great step up, because I can see these two historical figures for what they are. I certainly won't be treating the manuscript research that I've read about, as gospel. For even in my own experience of trying to fit written accounts with people's personal memories of more recent times, I found vast discrepancies between the two. The trick is to see what might be written down and placed in archives may be lies or just open to interpretation. Of course, I can't claim that this book will be anymore near the truth than Roy Strong, Alison Plowden, Antonia Fraser or David Starkey to name a few and the rest of the expert bunch. What I will claim it to be more radical in its approach. Unfortunately I must acknowledge them as source material, but hope you can forgive these laps in common sense. After all, short of going back in time and ask questions and looking at the Virgin Queen, no one could do it better than this. My personal opinion is that few that did such a feat would never spot her with the image we have. Or nobody from our time would believe them or me! But why would she be so different? Quite simply I believe Elizabeth was very shy. This is not always apparent, for she clearly developed ways of dealing with it. Yet at the very root of Elizabeth the Virgin Queen, was that she had an inferiority complex the size of Mount Everest. If a simple

thing, such as that conclusion, can escape top professional historians for many centuries, you might begin to see what I mean!

Nobody can tell me that she was born shy by nature, if she was shy. Though indeed modern genetic scientists are coming to the conclusion those people, having this trait, are or indeed born like this. Whatever on Sunday 7th of September 1533, she made her appearance into this world. According to those that like their Sun Signs, the Sun would make her ‘modest and shy’ in the position of Virgo. Now you, which don’t believe in either the astrological or D.N.A. explanations, will have to settle for a series of events, before she became queen on the 17 November 1558, making her so reserved. This is more debatable, because of the issues around upbringing that still cause a good deal of discussion on TV chat shows, which are about families. On the other hand, many of my female readers may especially be able to relate to these feelings she had of under confidence, for many I have met, who have spoke of exactly these feelings. The whole sequence of events, which I will relate to you in the next few chapters, would certainly put a hole in anyone’s confidence that is for sure. Maybe all these events did were to shape her opinions, though her lack of self-belief in herself, as we shall see, did alter them. Certainly she was no shrew! Yet she had some self-assurance, at least to an extent. Perhaps this was gained from what could only be described, by many of us today (regardless of those upbringing issues), as a rotten childhood.



Henry VIII & Anne Boleyn. Anne was a kind of Victoria Beckham of her day. Contrary to popular belief she was executed, not because she didn't produce a son, it was that she had no powerful friends to stop others who had them.

Edward and Mary were the most awful brother and sister Elizabeth could have and yet she loved them both!

Chapter 2

BROTHER & SISTER, MOTHERS & KING HENRY

If Elizabeth is going to change, so is her father King Henry, let's make him a nice man! You're joking, I hear you say! Basically he was, though he wasn't allowed to show it. Simply because Henry was scared stiff! He was scared of his father, of his brother, his wives, the church, the rulers of other countries, of being cursed by God and most of all his own subjects. When you look for fears you find them, like many powerful people do, from witches to communists. Prime fear number one has to be baby girls!

The one thing Henry VIII did not want to hear on a September day of 1533 was, "It's a girl." Yet that is what he was told. Naturally he couldn't attend the birth that is not what men would do, even a king. That's what we are led to believe; however that doesn't add up in my way of thinking. What it shows to me, is that Henry had to, or was too weak to counteract lowly servants and his advisors. By some accounts Henry didn't even attend the christening and had very little to do with the child now called Elizabeth. Once again was this his choice or some ridiculous protocol invented by his scheming officials? And there were plenty of them! Take Norfolk, Cromwell, Wolsey, and Moore, each one as conniving as the others. Shakespeare adds more to list in his play *Henry VIII*. Just swarming around the king, just

like worker bees around their Queen, we find Cranmer, Buckingham, Suffolk, Surrey, Gardiner, Guildford, Denny and even doctors. They all weren't helping; they were ruling the King! He seems to have had less power than the current Queen of England has. Although it has become well known today his concern was to produce a male successor, Henry went to great lengths to make certain when one was produced there would be no complications to that child getting the throne. The whole of his line and dynasty now rested on him. When his brother died, the family must have thought it was cursed, along with Henry. Special arrangements were made by the Vatican to allow an arranged marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Like a sheep, though he may have had doubts, Henry did his duty. Catherine did not; she did not conceive a healthy male. Still he was told she would, by Thomas Moore, who's interests lay elsewhere. Catherine lost all but one child.

Henry thus already had a daughter – Mary Tudor, when Elizabeth was born. We can only assume he did not want her. Besides that, he had declared that Mary was not his, (though she most certainly was) because the courts and or the new English Church, saying that Henry's marriage to Mary's mother, Catherine, was illegal. He may have used the legal system of that period to have this done, which may or may not have been ethically right, depending on how you view him.

Girls don't stop claims to the Throne, demands to that made Henry angry. More to the point they worried his lapdog people. After all one man had taken the crown, from the rightful heir, in the not too distant pass. Subsequently all the Tudors despised the hateful King Richard, though there is a backlash now, by some people, claiming that he is the victim of Tudor propaganda. Well if you read history at Oxbridge you can expect these crises of convictions. It doesn't really matter, for the purpose here is to

relate what the Tudors thought of Richard's actions. They hated him so strongly that maybe he was as unscrupulous, as they profess, I'd sooner trust them anyway than some 21st Century don. Laws were enacted, during Henry's reign, which attempted to control these claims to the highest office in the land. These new regulations merely consisted of asking the King's (or later Queen's) permission for the right to marry into Royalty. Not unlike the groom asking the father's permission to marry his daughter, before hand. However the father, could say no and so could the monarch! As we will see, many tried to get round this problem, especially during Elizabeth's time as granter. No son by definition would open up a whole bag of candidates, many with sufficient power to get the position. This 'power' doesn't relate as a personality battle, between the interested parties, such as those we see in political debates. Indeed you couldn't even stand unless your had loyal 'lackeys' who had their own loyal men to back them up. Respect for the King or Queen, was by a force that would beat the crap out of you, if you did not show respect. Back to fear again! The monarch never had his or her own army, for they would have to pay them, to do that would mean a tax. Those under the crown didn't want to pay a tax for that, indeed it seems they must have thought it best to have there own armies each. No significant person suggested that the crown should have one anyway, for the reason that they could switch sides if the King/Queen did something they didn't like. So, also if you had a force of men, (the power) you could win the throne. Henry had it, because his family beat Richard! No son, no admiration for the crown! As it turned out, when his first daughter took the chair, those candidates that already were around did exactly what I have highlighted previously. Nonetheless not a soul wanted to be put through that, on the basis of a foreign woman's inability to produce a boy. Cardinal Wolsey was issued instructions that

made it clear that the King had to be divorced.¹ This was for the good of England. It was not for the good of Catherine. She had a power base too. It breathed down the neck of the Vatican, making it clear that there was to be none of that kind of talk. So in the end the Roman Church did refuse a divorce,² clearly not on legal grounds, but on the basis of power of other interested parties, namely Catherine's relations. Ultimately they could have attacked Rhome, kicking the crap out of the Vatican! And they already had. Henry claimed to have doubts, that he expressed to Sir Thomas Moore, about the marriage to Catherine, before he met his next wife. He thought God had cursed him in someway, over his marriage to his brother's wife, because he had no son. Moore was out of favour; actually Henry was now listening to someone else. Thomas wouldn't except that forces other than God were bending his beloved church. They were of course, though they did eventually recognise his allegiance. Thomas paid the price for putting his trust in the church, over the King. So did the Church! The Vatican made it clear that if Henry did marry someone else, then he would be a bigamist. Henry got Thomas Cromwell to abolish the Catholic Church, creating the Church of England, and Henry its Supreme Head, those still loyal to that Roman Church would, by speaking out against the marriage to Bolyn, reaffirm that the King was a bigamist. Despite the break with Rome the King personally wanted little change in his and thus by implication, everyone's methods of worship. So he still believed in the old ways, despite the lack of Papal authority. Then one can hardly except that a man would cease believing, just for the sake of marrying some other woman. Others expected the people to, for precisely that reason. They also needed an

² Henry never did divorce any of his wives, one of the myths about him. Nor is it helped by top historians giving out the truth then saying the word divorce.

agent of change, which came from things like the English Bible. The Protestant cause would have most likely favoured another vehicle for their cause. Catholics objected to these 'English' ones (those printed) were not true translations, anyway and more to the point, seeing them as protestant, even if they might not have agreed with it. So the new religion latched on to these bibles especially Tyndale's Bible. King Henry didn't think much of these printed bibles, seeing as they brought the word of God into dispute, in the inns and taverns of 16th Century England.³ Not that he could and never went into such places as the King. His hypocrisy makes you think. He can question the word of God, his people could not! In spite of everything you could get away with it. John Marbeck, a church organist, who amazed the powers in the clergy, produced one of the first English Bibles. What was so amazing to them was he did it by himself! This clergy reminds me of something.... Oh yes university people... Still took him a good few years to get it into print and avoided getting burnt as a heretic, not bad indeed.

Cromwell was out to get Thomas Moore, once he had gone the control of the church and its enormous income was his. Henry's greed was as great as Cromwell was. He needed only to show a small portion of the wealth, of the monasteries, to get the green light for the sale notices for them. The equivalent today would be like selling, in England, every Council and there asserts. The Crown lived off it for years!⁴

The reason Henry needed a verdict, from a court, was to gain a legitimate son, by marrying Anne Bolyn. Perhaps unknown to the vast greater part of his court, the King had an illegitimate son by Elizabeth Blount and clearly must have regarded him as heir to the throne over any daughter. Only because there were many others with an interest and or a claim to the throne, so they would have disputed this.

The Royal Court after the news that Henry's marriage was a sham must, however have been filled with candidates' daughters, knowing full well that it was only a question of time till Catherine was sent packing. Henry's womanising was on everybody's lips. For the Bolyn family it was like leading a duck to water. Anne was the frontrunner, she would win too, but Mary Bolyn had also been up for grabs.

The year of 1536 was an eventful year for both Henry and the infant Elizabeth. Catherine of Aragon, Mary's mother, died. This also put an end to the Catholic claim that the King was a bigamist. This was no sad news to Henry then, so he dressed in yellow that day. Anne was pregnant and would hopefully bring forth his precious son. Anne may have used her pregnancy to bring Elizabeth back from Hatfield, where she had been taken sometime after her birth. Saying that either that it would comfort her to have her back, or that she was no threat, because she was carrying his son, or even that God might not approve of Elizabeth being away. To Anne, Elizabeth may well have appeared heir to the throne and Henry seemed or tried to acknowledge it. Mary was out of the running. Henry could not, without eating his own words, declare this daughter heir even if he wanted to, which he didn't. Elizabeth thus returned to court. Henry showing his 'heir' off, confident in the knowledge Anne would produce a son shortly though. She did indeed produce a son, stillborn. There is a possibility that this was caused by shock. For Henry was horse riding and fell, causing an injury to his leg that caused a sore that would not heal; indeed the fall nearly killed him. The news greatly upset the Queen anyway. The factions within the court intended to use this loss as leverage to eliminate Cromwell, who was supporting Anne. Yet he was too clever for them by far. He switched sides early than that and Anne was now a problem to him. Her father was Lord Privy

Seal, a very important post to have, as no document signed by the King, carried any authority without being sealed by the Great Seal or other official seals. It was a good political position to have as well. To get rid of her was going to be easy, for she was popular with men. Or was she?

Anne had lived the life of a fairy tale princess, before the King had taken a fancy to her. She lived in beautiful France and had a poet professing love for her. Described by some as being more French (posh) than English.⁵ Anne laughed and flirted with men, not unlike her daughter in the years to come. But most of all Anne had some enemies and some that simply didn't approve of her. Thomas Cranmer clearly did not. A few years before Cromwell and Cranmer had been told to keep an eye on her. Cromwell had his own reason for finding nasty stuff. Yet Cranmer before their wedding was keeping the event a low profile, just in case the public didn't approve. More likely it was Thomas who did not approve! Adding to it, there was a possibility of the Papal authority over the Church being restored, with Bolyn out of the way. So Henry eventually became convinced Anne was evil and a healthy male would not be produced from any other children she would have.⁶ She also did, they all died. He, with Cromwell's help, had her tried for adultery and she was found guilty and executed. If she did commit adultery, she was not the only one for Henry was after and had Anne's cousin, Madge Shelton, another woman, which Anne knew about but is a mystery to historians, plus Lady Rochford. She is a candidate for a mistress for the King for she got dismissed from her post in the bedchamber, although she was Anne's relation. Henry's part in these affairs would be seen by modern people, especially women, as he being the real culprit. After all he could have controlled his urges. Nevertheless Henry was no mere man; he was a special person, a King of England.

Nobody could judge him. Only God! So he did not have to answer to Anne if she was to accuse him. Let's face it she would not be able to use it to defend herself. Nor did she try. When she did confront him over her jealousy, Cromwell and the like advised the King that Bolyn had a "defective constitution".⁶ Bolyn knew only too well that God was the only one who could attack the King of England. She was spared some of the agony of what could have been a horrific death; instead Henry permitted the use of a sword, which took the head off in a single stroke.

Anne's death did not appear to cause Henry grief, but one piece of news soon did, the death of his illegitimate son. This would have been a great blow to the King. If any in his court didn't know, they knew then. Grief stricken or not, he wasted no time and married Jane Seymour, a shy young woman, whom his eye had been on for sometime. Jane was a virgin. This in Henry's court was actually quite unique, though officially it wasn't supposed to be, amongst the single women. Not surprisingly few believed she was, cynics pointed out that it would be proved otherwise, if the King wanted out of the marriage. Henry therefore had tried all the women. Little wonder historians have him suffering from sexually transmitted diseases. This time new sets of people were influencing the King. Edward Seymour and Sir Nicholas Carew pushed Jane's marriage. Duty bound to her family, precisely what the church told children to do, she told Henry what they had said she must do, or not do. This was of course not to speak with the King, without them being present. So when Anne was still alive, Jane's relations were vaulted over Anne's relations for positions at court. This ensured that a 'Jane' person could be with the King and Jane!

Sadly his third wife died soon after giving birth, but gave Henry his precious son. Precautions had been taken to make sure Elizabeth had no claim to the throne over any son. Previously

and conveniently, to the King's benefit, was revealed, during Anne's trial that her surviving daughter was not his child. This was established when several men, all of which had been tortured, confessed to sex with the Queen, this being something that would haunt the young Princes in the years to come. Though it was necessary for the King to get out of her mother's marriage, what was needed was to get some fools and there were plenty of them in King Henry's court, Cromwell found.

Servants hold the key to understanding many monarchical problems. Even the most powerful of Kings and Queens could do nothing without their entourage. These ranged from humble cleaners to lords and ladies. Positions, at court, could raise a person from a mere valet to First Lord of the Treasury.⁸ If someone attached or were attached to a King's son or daughter, it would see them rise or fall with their charge. Being related could be good or bad for your family. Nevertheless modest retainers could live the life of a lord, when they deputed for their master/mistress. Being sent to negotiate land deals, marriages, debts or anything else, even a low grade servant, would be treated to fancy meals, plus other rewards. "Put in a good word for me". This is ultimately how Cromwell got several of the King's servants to betray Anne Bolyne and how Anne fell for it, maybe even worked it out! For come the time of her execution she makes silly remarks. These quite naturally have been put down to the gravity of the situation she was in. Alternatively if you put them down to the fact that she had worked out how she got trapped into it, but realised there's no escape, they begin to make sense. Remarks such as "I will be known as Anne Lackhead". Apart from the joke, mean that she should have used her head more, in the circumstances I'm about to describe.

"The King's Chamber" implies a great deal of loyalty would

be needed for a position there. When Sir Francis Weston (attached to this Chamber) blurts out that he loves Anne, I suspect his motives. Then the Principal Gentleman of the same Henry Norris, the Groom Mark Smeaton do also declare love, fowl play comes rushing through the door screaming at me. I know of no other male servants that did the same, for other parts of the palace. These three had limited contact with the Queen, for they were Henry's personal staff. Contact between Henry and Anne was on a strict formal basis, limited too, I suspect for how did the King get all the women he had, if Anne was around him all the time? Still one look can be enough to turn men's heads. Sadly we can't tell. Not from documents relating what people thought about her and pictures of Anne. Apart from a few various men and Henry's pursuit of her, admirers would have been short on the ground. This was due to physical deformities that were considered (at the time) to be signs of the devil's work. They have to be taken into account when people make comments of her, for none had modern political correctness views. Though both deformities would and could have been corrected nowadays. They consisted of an extra crude finger, and a large 'strawberry' mole on her neck. She was certainly self-conscious of them. For instance she wore gloves and a ribbon, or something around her neck. For these reasons most considered her to be not the least bit good looking. While her portraits conflict with many statements like these, trying to get to the bottom of how attractive she is is a minefield. Nonetheless for argument's sake, I believe that the 'King's Chamber' men had not fallen for her. Anne was clearly flattered by their declarations. Clearly she lapped it up. Maybe it was a compensation for the poor body image these defects created in her mind. In the end she would realise this, when it was too late!

Cromwell used the fact she would respond to flattery and the

three men's social climbing or loyalty to the King, against them all. Investigations can lead to evidence being planted, witness being manipulated. Cromwell and the Duke of Norfolk clearly had a word with all three men, as they were told to find out what Anne did. They did use the men, but not in such a way that anyone could have suspected them of planting lies, or even setting the three up. Nevertheless it remains to be seen to this day that these men did make advances to the Queen. Did they do so out of duty to Henry VIII?

What kind of tactics did the task of offering a case that would convince the King, of the Queen's guilt? Were Cromwell's words to Henry, before the May Day tournament at Greenwich, that he had no proof of her majesty's relations with certain members of the King's Chamber? Did he then continue with; yet under certain circumstances, the Queen's faithfulness could be brought into doubt. I can't tell you he did, though in exactly the same way I have put doubts into your mind about Cromwell, so those most have flown through Henry's, already suspicious, mind, about his wife. Cromwell might have gone one step further, by suggesting the King looked for any signs of her loyalty to him at the tilts, rounding it off with a nice bit of humbleness on his part, that if the King did see her fidelity, then Thomas' findings meant nothing. With those kinds of actions and words to that effect, Cromwell couldn't go wrong. For anything, a gesture or look to anyone would have put the final nail in Anne's coffin.

While Henry and Anne watched the tilts, Henry wasn't just watching the display. He witnessed Anne's brother in law (Lord Rochford) talking to the Queen, plus Henry Norris picking up the deliberately dropped handkerchief, thus accepting the role of the Queen's champion. Bolyn was doomed, so were all the men.

You can go on believing that Henry was totally responsible

for this undoubtedly miscarriage of justice. You must hold Thomas Cromwell up for allowing this too. I honestly feel that you would be wrong. The villain of this piece had to be the new Lord Privy Seal, yes Cromwell. He's not the only one for Cranmer, the Duke of Norfolk, also let Anne fall. Cromwell's schemes however caught up with him in the end.

Mary Tudor hated Elizabeth, almost from the moment she was born. She had been downgraded by the child's birth. In Mary's way of thinking was "Bolyn's brat" who was both responsible for her mother being sent away. This would become her catchphrase for Elizabeth after Anne's death, also it was not just a slur on Mary's part, but a political statement. She knew full well the judgement of the court. However Anne being crowned Queen of England meant that her daughter was still heir to the throne, even though allegedly she was not Henry's daughter or heir, hence the expression. Mary deluded herself into believing Elizabeth was not her father's child. Yet as a royal she must accept the law even when wrong. Nevertheless Anne didn't make it easy on Mary. At one stage she had even been told by the King to be Elizabeth's lady in waiting. She had refused and Anne said she should have her ears boxed, all this just added to Mary's hatred. This does show that she had the guts to stand up to this powerful monarch. She was also held responsible by Elizabeth's mother, for the King's lust for Madge Shelton. At the very least Anne assumed this to be the case anyway. Bolyn's reasoning for this action was brought about by Madge being the daughter to Mary's governess. This however can be interpreted as stupidity on Anne's part, at least extreme gullibility, for not realising this could happen. Shelton was her cousin and she must have known what Henry was like. Then again Mary could have manipulated Madge into going after the King, to spite Anne, for this is a distinct reality. Later when Edward was born, Mary found she

could do what she liked to Elizabeth, because Henry had his male successor and Mary was then placed next in line.⁹ Judging by her portraits, the King's eldest daughter dressed very finely indeed. As with most of these pictures, they don't now do the sitter justice. When colours fade, light effects disappear. This leaves a ghostly shell behind to me. So it is with a picture of Mary when young. My personal belief is that even the original, when first seen, would not begin to do even her clothes justice. Catholic churches were crowded with colour and finery. Mary, before the age of 30, perhaps wanted to keep this style up. For if the picture of her at 28 is anything to go by, she was encrusted with sparkling jewels. Her dress had gold patterns, coupled with white lace and silk, embroidered with gold threads, in patterns, some of which are Tudor Roses. Sadly for her, she was only a moderately attractive woman, with the red hair that Elizabeth seems to have always wanted and yet never had. The face itself shows a stern expression. This can be seen in two ways. First, is that at the time of sitting she was disgruntled, from being forced to sit for the artist, or didn't want to sit for it anyway, and even dislike/discomfort at the point it was painted. The other reason was that she wanted it like that, most likely to show displeasure with someone, perhaps her father. If this is the reason, to me, she would be trying to say; here I am your royal daughter - treat me like one - then I will smile!

The other daughter would not have disagreed with those sentiments either. Elizabeth from an early age had intelligence, grasping languages with ease. When her education was complete, she could speak all the main languages of Europe fluently.¹⁰ Henry was proud of Bolyn's daughter, yet had great difficulty acknowledging her. She knew and despite it, she still worshipped him. Later, conversely she would resent him for the puppet he was I think. Henry really considered this little girl, a great prize

and he also doubtless thought she was the most beautiful little girl in the world. Most fathers do! Though in this case he was not far wrong, it's simply that you cannot turn from ugly duckling to a swan, over night, or probably at anytime. When Elizabeth, is a lot older, even an absolute stunner, looks wise, I'm convinced that she was, without doubt, a very pretty child. She might have been a bookworm, she's often studying, especially history, giving a serious side to her nature. Many people write off intellectual people, thinking they can't also be good looking, with their heads in books all the time. Elizabeth compensated (not in any personal way) this image off, because she also loved music, hunting and gambling. From the age of four she had a governess, Kate (Catherine) Champernowne,¹¹ whom she became extraordinary close to. This was despite being ripped (literally) from her first nurse Lady Bryan, when she was told to look after the King's son. Some of our college types prefer testimony from ambassadors' descriptions of this child. They never fail to amaze me. These ambassadors very rarely tell their sovereign the truth. More often than not, unless it's really going to become obvious to their master/mistress, they tell white lies. In Elizabeth's case he's not going to brag that she's beautiful. For would you tell your King/Queen, that the pipsqueak English King, had just begotten a daughter, that's bound to one of the most beautiful women that anyone's likely to see!

Henry went into a real decline after Jane's death. Pushy officials would not let him stay long in it. Some of them had daughters that needed their parents' advancement. Despite the fact that in Catherine Howard's case she had tried advancing herself, with a whole collection of unsuitable males. She also found this form of social climbing to her liking and continued with Henry and the rest of the court. Henry by this time had

realised also that Bolyn was probably set up. For his little chiefs feared telling him the truth this time. Catherine did tell her uncle a pack of lies and the household servants latched quickly on to this. They didn't need to blackmail her into giving her the positions at the court, for she found them useful in keeping her mind of the attentions of the now not very pleasant King. However that's jumping the gun, for she was his fifth wife. The authoritative reason for Henry's wife after Jane was to secure an alliance with Protestant countries against Vatican empowered countries. Since Thomas Cromwell set it up, this is for certain very unlikely. More credible it was that it really put the Duke of Norfolk and others in a defensive posture with the King. Henry lusted after Anne of Cleves though, purely on the basis of Holbein's portrait of her, plus courtiers' reports of her beauty. It wasn't on anything else, for one written report from Nicholas Wotton, basically said 'don't bother,' if you read between the lines. By the sound of things, even her brother and mother thought it was a bit of tomfoolery. For Anne could only speak German, was only very good at needlework, hardly the companion of a King. So they delayed negotiations, after the death of the old duke in February 1539. Clearly he wanted the match, presumably to get rid of her for some reason.

Meanwhile Thomas Howard, the sixty-five year old third Duke of Norfolk, saw the coming of Cleves to England, to marry the King, as an opportunity to get his niece a post at the Court. Where better than in the new Queen's household and the position of Maid of Honour and a rather apt title me-thinks, for the niece had as much honour as a prostitute!

Even the wind wasn't much in favour of this marriage. For crossing the Channel, Anne had to wait 15 days to get her ship to move in the right direction. Strangely she played cards with the

English ambassadors, while stuck in France. Something that came in handy later, with Henry, at night, when they should have been doing other things!

Everyone else at Henry's court was also convinced that Cleves was good looking, or so they make out. When the ship finally docked and news reached the king's ear, Henry decided to set off to greet her. As Henry rarely went anywhere under dressed or under equipped, his progress was slow. He had also with him some gifts for her. The King didn't do anything in a modest way! Either Henry's patience ran out or Sir Anthony Browne volunteered to go ahead. Sir Anthony definitely thought that Anne would be a sight for sore eyes. He got one hell of a shock! It could be argued that Browne's eyes were sore all right, from having to look at her! When Henry saw her face for the first time, it's reported as it was pitted and covered in spots, as for the rest...well...she was ugly!

Henry was well trained in how to behave in public, though she appalled him. He certainly did not fly off the handle with rage, yet. Instead his behaviour was a true gentleman and even kissed her. Indeed he probably had a great deal of respect towards women, to their faces anyway. Afterwards nobody dared ask him what he thought about her. In the end Henry asked them and told them too! "I like her not".

Back at Greenwich Palace, Cromwell asked him also. The King angrily saying the same thing more or less was sarcastic to him, asking "what's the remedy?"

This could mean one of two things; though one of them seems implausible, being could Cromwell find a way to make the king like her! Bear in mind that the King was possibly having a go at Thomas. Much more expected that he was trying to say the marriage should be stopped, though he fudge it by asking his chief official the question if it could. Cromwell couldn't suggest

anything. Henry bit his fingernails in response. One of many bad habits he had. The truth too, was that Anne got a shock as well. For the King wasn't the handsome fellow of his youth.

So the marriage went on its diplomatic course, with formal meetings, while in private (away from Anne) Henry had blazing rows with Cromwell. The same argument was repeated, Henry calling Anne a 'Flemish mare' and clearly stating he did not want to marry her, this time. After the disaster that Cromwell got him into, you would have thought he would find his own solution to the problem. Not Henry! Once again he turned to Cromwell. A waste of time because he wanted the marriage and a little thing like being ugly didn't matter. Henry would have to put up with it and her. After all Thomas wasn't the one marrying her! Though that was undoubtedly what Thomas believed and said to his loyal companions, he would never say it to the King. A certain level of being two-faced was a requirement for the job of being at court.

Another reason for the marriage to go ahead was that the Duke of Norfolk could use it as proof, to convince the King, of Cromwell's personal gain, at the expense of Henry's. So when the full Court was summoned, fetching in all the King's men none had any intentions whatsoever of putting "Humpty Dumpty" right, by getting him out of the marriage. The anti Cromwell party, could see by letting it go ahead, would put and end to Thomas Cromwell once and for all. This was the reason they also said 'no' to Henry's final and desperate question "can nothing be done?"

Historians, like Henry, were fooled into thinking that the Cleves lot would start a war, if the marriage were cancelled. In all probability they needed England's help as much as what Cromwell thought England needed there help. In truth they could

have been bought off and indeed they were, when Henry did get out of the marriage. They didn't declare war then, did they, Mr or Ms University professor?

At the age of ten, Princess Elizabeth was allowed back at court, with her sister and brother Edward. He had been kept away for health reasons, not because he wasn't wanted, or an embarrassment to the policy of England, which Elizabeth was. The most likely cause for their return was Catherine Parr, Henry's sixth wife, who he might have married for her caring personality around children and when he had, (married her) brought them altogether. If this is the case, maybe Henry regretted shunning his children in the first place. She however called it a "higher power". What she did not mean was God's power or Henry asking, it would have been her family. The Parrs were already in the King's service; indeed their daughter had seen Henry when she was one of the gentlewomen in the chamber of Catherine Howard. Most likely she was used goods, at the downfall of that wife, having been married before. So she didn't capture Henry eyes and there appears to have been no interest in her at that time. Having failed to secure a match with the King, which you can bet was tried; the Parr family married her off to the wealthy Lord Latymer, John Neville.

The 'new' factor that now influenced Henry wasn't the previous one of a royal breeding machine. For in all the years Catherine was married, not one child was conceived. It was thus widely believed by 1543, therefore she couldn't. So if this was not the determining factor in how she got picked to be Henry's sixth wife, what was then? Money! Neville departed this life in March of 1543 leaving his money behind, safely in his widow's hands and the King joined with her in July. Thomas Seymour also expressed an interest in this money bride. The Parrs knew he had been on embassy duties in Vienna for two years. They would

block his suit, for these types of duties paid nothing, leaving the holder scratching around for money. Thus Catherine was out of bounds to him. Still he was handsome and she would, no doubt, have preferred to tie the knot with him. Henry's daughter Mary laughed, years later, when told Seymour had proposed before Henry. She made it clear that Catherine had never spoken to Thomas and saw him only once. Mary was very naive, still once is all it takes sometimes to fall in love. Nevertheless who was Catherine to complain though; she was marrying the King of England, even if it was only on the basis of money, plus being good company for a sick man. She was fond of marrying husbands who die. You find a lot of these types of women in the 16th Century; Catherine becomes the first of three in this book alone.

Whatever the King's reason were, she had a massive effect on the young Princess and her Protestantism may have come from the new Queen, however Catherine had no effect on Mary, who stayed a true Catholic, whilst pretending to be whatever religion was popular or in power, just not very well or much as the case may be. Elizabeth wasn't the only person to be drawn to the new religion by this wife of the King. One of the people, who are going to have a greater influence as an ambassador later, started as a servant in Queen Catherine's chambers. Nicholas Throckmorton was related to the Queen, explaining why he got the job, picked up protestant beliefs here. This sixth wife had dangerous ideas about religion, to those with power, then again so had her friend Anne Askew. These would see Anne become the only woman racked at the Tower of London. Nobody knew that then, the question was when would Parr be going to the Tower? This Queen was very well educated, yet knew this would not save her, as you can't argue with the King on this point, particularly this King, as we have seen. She played dumb, or

what we would say, she converted into a creep! Her line on the take, were these things about religion was way beyond her comprehension. Then she played the trump card, which any 16th Century man was waiting to hear. As his wife she always deferred to him and then a final card as the ‘dutiful’ wife role, being the talk was to keep the King’s mind of his painfully sore leg. Catherine thus made him a complete fool of him. Henry was convinced, days before, she was guilty and so instructed the new Chancellor of England to come to arrest his wife on charges of heresy. When he arrived, the King resorted to making him look stupid. In a way Catherine’s tomb still mocks Henry, regardless if it was intended to or not. The figure prays to past through purgatory, which she would not have been accepted to do if she had Protestant beliefs. Notwithstanding she did not go in this tomb, during Henry’s reign.

We cannot be sure what influences Henry’s other wives had on the young Princess, though she is reported as saying she would never marry after the death of one. With hindsight of her future we have, this would appear significant. Perhaps though it was not, because many children say they will not get married and later does.

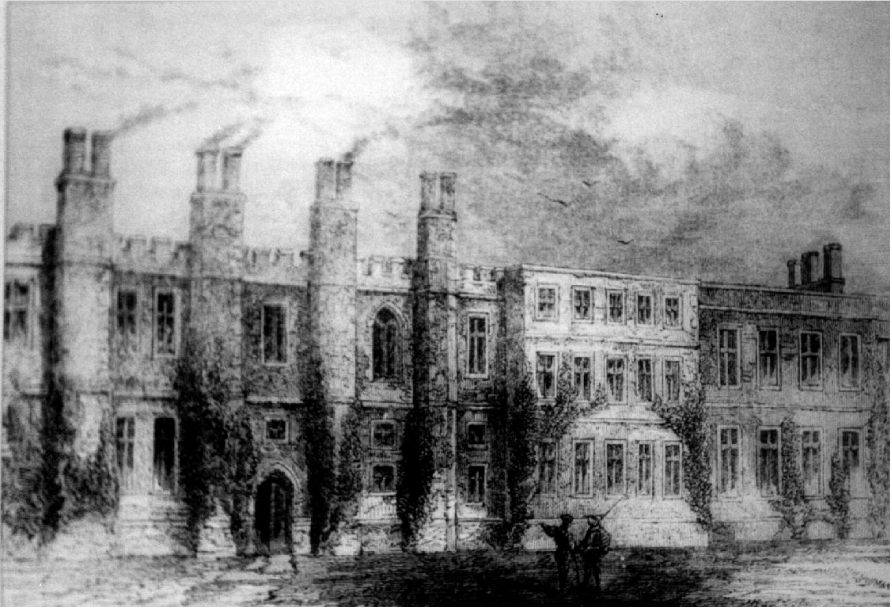
These next few years, till the age of 13, was the only settled family life Elizabeth experienced during her childhood. Again if the upbringing of your kids has anything to do with the way they turn out, later in life, then Henry went wrong in all three cases. Thus his methods created one ‘weak and feeble’ a religious nutcase and ‘Mr bossy boots’. He didn’t get better with age. He became gross in all ways; they had to change the way deer hunting was done, because the King couldn’t move much. He had an early form of Sudan Chair made for him. Some historians think lifts were installed to get him in the upstairs rooms at the palaces. Neville Williams made inquiries and found no evidence

for them or a need, as the King used only the ground floor apartments. Then everything changed with her father's death in 1547. Elizabeth and Catherine Parr, Queen in name only it appears, moved to a house in Chelsea, along with Nicholas Throckmorton. Mary, old enough to look after herself, just moved out. She perhaps didn't get on well with Catherine over religion and couldn't stand Elizabeth. Edward became king, yet again in name only. or so most people believe. For Henry's son quickly obtained power when he wanted to. Thus against historical opinion, on the subject of him, he takes control, having more authority than his father.

I find it somewhat odd that the colleges and universities, King Henry helped found, would produce scholars that don't understand Henry's life. Produce false statements about him and his marriages. They don't just pick on Henry and confine their falsehoods just to that monarch.

Elizabeth (around 1547) was now in her teens and craved love and affection. She didn't get it. The accepted view we have of her, during this time, was of a kind, generous, intelligent, fun loving, innocent and gullible young woman. These qualities, I have found, stayed with her into later life, though often modified. Others think she was way beyond her years in her outlook on life. Mary called her, 'Her fool.' Elizabeth later said, "Children deceived of their hope fall to crying."

Mary Tudor on the other hand, had been beaten. By the time Henry died, she had to acknowledge that she was a bastard, forced into a religion she hated, couldn't publicly practice the "true religion" as she called it. Neither had she time for 'fools' or protestant 'imps'.¹²



Chelsea in London is regarded as a place for jet-setters and even in Tudor times they had their up and coming here as-well.



Thomas Parry is one of the people in the real Tudor world that are often more important than Dukes or Earls. However they are not well known. The reason being they are just plain servants. However they can bring a King or Queen down, with just a word in the wrong ear and raise heirs to the status of gods with words in the right ear.

Chapter 3

ABUSE & MISTRUST

THE GOSSIP PLOT

Mary Tudor did not need to live with her stepmother, for she was well supported by rich Catholics. She was living the high life, with top class servants, from nobleman's houses, like her faithful maid of honour Jane Dormer. Jane tells us it was a prim and proper house, with the entire household taking part in the forbidden Catholic practices. It wasn't meant to be like this. The Privy Council of King Edward had said due to special circumstances, which seem to date back to Henry's time as King, she was granted the privilege to hear mass in her chamber, with one or two ladies. This they reasoned was until she learned about the Protestant ways, which were coming into effect. Part of Edward's Act of Uniformity. However Mary wasn't likely to change and was publicly and openly defying the Council and King. She knew it and was ready to lock horns with the Protestants, making it clear she would die for the old religion ways. Even so she did not relish that prospect, knowing to well that the ruling body would not put up with her stance long.

Thomas Seymour, Lord High Admiral, on the other hand, had high expectations. One of which was to marry a royal lady. As explained previously he had known Catherine Parr before she had married Henry VIII, but she was now a rich widow again and he was soon calling on her. Neither did he leave his royal marriage plan to chance. Gossip was around already saying he would have preferred a king's daughter to a king's widow.¹³ He

had already asked Mary; she quickly turned him down. He wasn't ugly; at least that is the impression we are given of him through his portraits. She rejected him because she and Elizabeth Tudor could not marry without the Privy Council's consent. To marry without its consent, under Henry's complicated will, would debar her (second in line) and Elizabeth (third) from the throne, if Edward Tudor left no heir and there was a good chance of that.¹⁴ Besides that Mary would have been more willing if the marriage favoured her plans, which she was undoubtedly hatching, to restore Catholicism in England. She also had enough problems with the Council, simply trying to stay Catholic. She was contemplating getting out of the country, for life although curiously easy for her at this time, she was adamant it would get harder.

Within months of Mary's relations being at Chelsea, Catherine had married Thomas, in secret. So Mary was not the only one breaking rules. Elizabeth's governess now married and called Kate Ashley, loved good gossip. Stirring things, she said to Thomas, "Someone said that you should have married my lady (Elizabeth)".

"Nay," said Thomas, "I love not to lose my life for a wife. It has been spoken of, but that can never be, but I will promise to have the Queen."

To which Kate replied, "Past promises I hear you already have."¹⁵

From this conversation we can see that Thomas was not interested in Elizabeth, although later he is. Which begs the question did Kate Ashley talk him into it? The court found out as well, about Thomas' marriage. I can't help thinking that Elizabeth loyally told her brother.

Certain experiences of Elizabeth's in the next few years have

been described by historians as flirtations! These ‘flirtations’ are clearly very upsetting to the young Princess and are more like attempts by Seymour to abuse her. This is what many historians now think, after of course the huge amount of publicity surrounding abuse cases that came in the late 20th Century. These historians and myself¹⁶ could therefore have succumb to the study of historical interpretation effected by contemporary factors, or as the academics call it “historiography”. Therefore we could be all wrong! There is a loophole provided by the academic world itself. Which Neil Tonge explains, as ‘if there’s substantial and convincing evidence to support the judgement, it’s not wrong.’¹⁷ The evidence is that if everyone now accepts child abuse happens, then it did in the past! This is of course ridiculous. Our concept of childhood has changed from all those years ago. We tend to treat 14-year-olds as youngsters and try to protect them. They treated children of Elizabeth’s age as responsible persons, who could easily have had sex with anyone, generally once they were married, with parental permission, this was done often. We might be horrified at that, but 14-year-old girls do have sex now, as much as society disapproves of it or them. That’s assuming they knew how though. Thomas certainly knew what to do. In reality it’s more of a case of bad conduct on his part. From this point in time and onwards we get our indications of shyness. For she becomes embarrassed, we are told, when Seymour’s around. He was the only man in the house, apart from servants (class again) and she apparently blushes in his presence.¹⁸ Seymour starts teasing her and making her laugh, which at first she must have thought funny, perhaps because of that sense of humour of hers. Kate was also always present, throwing in the odd comment herself, such as how attractive he was and so on. On occasions, in the early morning, Elizabeth would be in bed and the door would open. It would be Seymour

and he then would start to tease her, if he caught her. She would hide behind the curtains or under the bedding.¹⁹ Elizabeth told Catherine he was coming into her room improperly dressed. He denied it and got angry, which probably made matters worse for her. So she resorted to being up with a book early and fully dressed, but it did not stop him tormenting her. One situation, which has been exaggerated by academics reading the testimony of the servants' confessions, involves a black dress. Elizabeth wore this, because she was in mourning for her father. The reports state that Thomas cut it up, while Catherine held her. This doesn't mean she was wearing it, as most historians believe, for the reports could indicate that it was cut up before her, in a very spiteful manner. Catherine held her so she could not stop him doing the deed. We don't know what reason they had for not wanting her wearing this dress, yet clearly they had little time for the ceremonies associated with mourning or cared nothing for the dead king. This black dress incident is clearly very important anyway to the authorities; however a written record give no real clues and with no personal testimony causes havoc in historical terms. All because of a black dress! It ended (the misconduct) in 1548 when Catherine is reported to have caught him trying to embrace Elizabeth. How the Queen Dowager saw this is hard to tell. Again we don't get or have her words on the subject. However she sent her to live at Cheshunt, with some old friends and relations - the Dennys. It seems that this piece of gossip is maybe an Ashley lie and perhaps she also spread a tale around that Seymour had seen Elizabeth embrace with an unknown male. This tale is recounted supposedly by Catherine! If we can believe Elizabeth's letters to her, she still had a good opinion of her. Not long afterwards she died in childbirth, though the baby,

a girl lived.²⁰ Catherine's death was a bitter blow for Elizabeth. It was a step up the social ladder for Nicholas Throckmorton, who gets put on the Privy Council.

It appears it was good news for Kate Ashley, because she starts to say you can marry Seymour now.²¹ To which Elizabeth always answers "NO." Thomas Seymour then starts writing to Elizabeth asking her to marry him. She doesn't even write back to him.

Immediately after the death of King Henry, Seymour's brother had made himself Lord Protector, while Edward was still young. Trying to get the Scots to agree to marry his charge, he instructed Lord Parr to attack Scotland. Going with him were Nicholas Throckmorton and William Cecil. Nicholas returned to tell the King of the English victory at the battle of Pinkie. This put him in good favour. Cecil was already in good esteem, for he was married to the sister of Edward's personal tutor, plus he was the Lord Protector's secretary. Edward Seymour is thought to have been possibly the real power in the land. For instance the Protector tried to turn one of Elizabeth's houses in London into a Royal Mint.²² Thomas Seymour, continuing to write, made offers to help and pestered too by Kate, as well, Elizabeth sent her steward, Thomas Parry to see him. This was precisely the right thing for her to do as a Princess. It was also still wrong. Thomas inquired all about her money and Parry told him everything! He also requested Parry to do something for him.

The Princess' steward on his return, asked Elizabeth something like, "*do you intend to get married?*" To which she replied, "When that shall come to pass, *I shall do, as God wants me too.*"

Then after she had thought about what he was asking she retorted "what do you mean asking such a question and who bade him say so?"

Parry backed off quick. Henceforth he consulted William Cecil, as he had been selected by his mistress to do this kind of thing. Yet Elizabeth hadn't finished with him and she said sarcastically, knowing how Ashley loved to gossip about her, "*go now and be sure to tell Ashley*, for I will know nothing but she shall know of it." ²³

The steward Parry liked to gossip, as we have seen. In a meeting with Kate Ashley, he starts 'fishing' for gossip. He says to her, "There's good will between the Lord Admiral (Seymour) and her grace." ²⁴ To which Kate, who's also 'fishing' replied, "I know it well enough." ²⁵ Then proceeded to tell him all she knew or more likely made up. At one point in the conversation Parry says Seymour wouldn't make a fit husband, as he has heard much evil about him. Kate goes mad and jumps to Seymour's defence. Kate's own husband had also heard rumours about his wife. Her defence of Seymour leaves us with the suggestion that these rumours might have been about her being in love with Seymour.

Shortly after the conversation, Seymour, Ashley and Parry were arrested. Seymour had been implicated in a massive fraud and also burst in on Edward and killed his dog! Putting on my investigator's hat, there is a lot of mystery about this incident. Thomas had rooms near the king yet seems to have sneaked in to the palace from the gardens. The next bit is straightforward enough. The dog alerted the King by barking when Thomas opened the door. There is then some confusion in the tales as to how he killed the dog. Some say by sword and others by gun. A gun sounding would make more noise and alert more courtiers. Swords were permitted to be carried and a large gun would be difficult to hide. Yet why would he have carried the gun in the first place? If he was going to kill the King with it, why didn't he shoot Edward rather than the dog? To kidnap Edward was the

conclusion the Privy Council came to. To silence a barking dog would need him to kill it.²⁶ A sword would do that. If he did not, the dog would have waked everyone up. Caught by a barking dog! Thomas is not a clever man is he? Seymour must have known about the dog being in the King's room, unless it wasn't supposed to be there. Still doesn't alter my opinion of him being a bit of a dope. He could have said he wanted a private audience with the King, when asked by those who had now come to see what all the noise was. Historians think that his own brother came to the conclusion that Seymour had devised a secret marriage, with Elizabeth, and a plot to overthrow the Council and the king. Then why didn't he arrest him before attacking the King? From this conclusion, of the academic historians, it's easy to see that the ruling body didn't think the Catholic Mary Tudor had much chance of getting the throne, at least some of them. Edward himself gives her no leeway either. Nor is the protestant Elizabeth named a successor. Would this be due to what happened next or some other cause? They needed to get to the bottom of the admiral's actions. Seymour must have blabbed that Ashley and Parry had something to do with a plot by presumably Elizabeth, he lied. Parry and Ashley were easy targets to arrest and after questioning, talked, but they could only make general gossip out of their answers, not the evidence of the plot that Seymour had said.

Elizabeth, although not arrested, because they couldn't, perhaps due to Edward saying so, was questioned by Sir Robert Tyrwhit. Presumably his line was to lay the accusation that she was the leader of the plot, had put the word out to Thomas, that he was to get rid of her brother, she would then marry him, when Queen. How much of this finger pointing he did put to her is not clear, though judging by the response, not much is my conclusion. For she didn't know anything and stated she had no

intention of marrying Seymour. Then she told Sir Robert he had no right to question her. When he then mentioned the arrest of the servants, she burst into tears; being so upset that later she became ill with her nerves.²⁷ Some historians think that she burst into tears first. Either way it would implicate her in the plot. Yet it didn't mean she was the ringleader, which is what Sir Robert was trying to work out. She may have had already blabbed herself to Edward, as Elizabeth is always loyal to her relatives, at least the close ones.²⁸ Yet why didn't Edward trust her? Or did he, at one stage? At his age he was going through hormone hell - puberty to you and me! Then there is his sister, if you can call her that! For to some she is only half, to others not his sister at all. Was this red-hot young women, who ambassadors, the entire male population of the court (just about) were after, an interest to Edward, the King? Then when you start to wonder why the succession, set out under Edward's will, excludes Protestant Elizabeth, switching to Jane Grey, then you might get close to an answer. What do the historical experts think the reason was? Well like most things they give a plausible explanation. They look at the judgement of Edward's father, saying she was a bastard. This however could only mean that Edward did not see her as his true sister. What if Edward had indeed declared his love for Elizabeth, who would have been horrified and disgusted, by what she saw as an improper advance. Knowing a little bit of what Elizabeth's temper was like, she would have exploded and insulted the King. He did not see his advances' as incest, for if historians can see that 'bastard judgement' so could Edward. On the other hand, Elizabeth did see it as incest and no-way saw herself as a bastard. Kings don't take rejection lightly and Elizabeth paid the price of being rejected from the will, plus for the time being, the succession. He perhaps threatens her with

this, it wouldn't have worked. The Princess would most likely tell him it was the correct thing to do and that Mary was next in line, following her 'dear' father's words.

Ashley and Parry were eventually released, from their confinement, mostly due to Elizabeth's begging. There was after all no evidence, only gossip, that would not have been wrote down normally.²⁹ Elizabeth did not think they had been in the plot anyway. To me, she invariably viewed the world as mostly a pleasant place, with pleasant people. A view she kept in her heart at least, I think, till she died. 'Rose tinted glasses' we would call it. This is more likely why she was upset with Sir Robert. Curiously enough, Kate was told off by the Protector's wife for being 'friendly' with Seymour and further told she was not fit to be a governess of a king's daughter. Showing a womanly concern, or caring nature, or could it be that she thought the young Princess was too young and innocent in the ways of the world. Whatever Elizabeth believed, Thomas Seymour was charged with 31 articles, some of which for the High Admiral are unbelievable even if true!

Part of his duties in this capacity included capturing rogue ships and their crews and seizing the goods that had been stolen. Yet Thomas was worst then the people he was chasing. He even put his fellow ship captains and crews in prison, when they took rogue ships! He released the wrong people and kept the money and goods himself. No surprise that he had 10,000 men available to over throw the Government and take the King captive with the money from being a pirate himself. Plus nearly 3,000 pounds defrauded from the King, with the help of Sir William Sherrington! You can't blame them for having him executed. He probably went to his death thinking his brother had landed him

in it. When it was more likely the young King's adolescent behaviour that sealed his fate, with perhaps the help of Elizabeth, doing what she thought was the right thing to do.

If Elizabeth had problems with Edward so did her half-sister. Mary thought the best thing to do was leave this hellhole of a country. Everyone knew that the King was weak, despite friendly ambassadors' chat assuring her that, she wanted out. To further this desire, she purchased a house only two miles from the port of Maldon. In reality she had no chance of escape, due to roadblocks and Kent full of troops, from the fear of invasion, not Catholicism. Nevertheless her home was under close watch, one of her staff reporting that some of the servants as suspicious, being possibly spies for the Council. This man telling her, Robert Rochester seems to know a lot of what the Council were up to. Like they weren't intending to deprive her of the ceremonies she was fond of till later in the year.³⁰ Mary wasn't interested, her religious fever growing. Nor could she make her mind up if she was going or staying put. Then was she or Rochester in control of her actions. Once again he knows things that should have been out of bounds to him; even that Edward was near death. How did he know? We are led to believe from astrology apparently. I might be one of the few historians that think this does indeed work. For those that do not, I also have doubts about this adding up, even as a plausible explanation, one must suspect Robert. Ambiguously he was keeping an eye on Mary for the Protestants on the Council or for those hidden Catholics, even if only one. At the stage it's hard to see which, so take your pick. I think it might become more obvious soon.

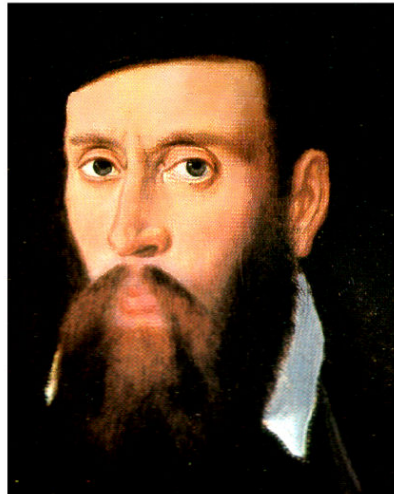
Mary pushed to go, so a boat had to be arranged that would meet up with two foreign warships anchored in the Blackwater River. They were too visible to be missed by the English authorities. Rochester has no alternative but to send a man out to

Maldon, with instructions to the port officials to arrest anyone setting out in a boat from there. This man returned to tell them that the boat crew had been arrested! It put an end to the plan to leave, yet why did she want to go?

Mary thought it was the Privy Council after her. She was wrong it was her brother the King. Edward did not do always as the Council wanted. They did what he wanted. Nicholas Throckmorton kept coming to her to tell her she must change her religion. Still the Privy Council did not press or undertook any direct action to stop Mary and her Catholic practices they seemed to find so offensive. Her belief, that it was the Council putting pressure on, came from King Edward's manipulation of events. When Mary saw her brother she would use tears on him. Yes well two can play that game and so the King cried back. Thus Mary was convinced it was the Council persecuting her. It was still Edward; he didn't like what she was and doesn't permit her to come regularly to court. He sent her jewels, though cynically says they were never good enough to please him. There's further evidence to suggest he was two-faced to Mary, from a discussion he had. "I am sorry for this realm.... but this evil thing I will not allow".³¹ Although I have edited this speech down, the key is still the 'evil thing' which is Catholicism. No wonder Bishop Hooper wrote of the young King "he will be the wonder and terror of the world". He adds also, knowing how ill he is "if he lives".³²

Members of the Privy Council were obviously in league with Mary, without her knowledge. Perhaps this is why Rochester played dirty tricks on her and stopped her leaving. Mary was prepared to fight the Council. She rode into London with her retinue all wearing rosaries, yet unknown to her she was fighting the King. A letter had prompted the visit, which included a piece from Edward saying "I will see **my laws strictly obeyed**".³³

In a meeting which lasted two hours, over her desire to hold on to her faith, Edward lied that he had only just took control in the last year. Mary put him straight in his place, saying he was not bound to the new religion. 'Bound to it' he was pushing it! Nobody in the Council dared say that. Edward failed at that very moment. Now he knew he could not put her to death and sent her home. Next day Edward was told by the ruling body of men he had selected, that stopping Mary from having mass or putting her to death, would cause Charles V and his armies to attack England or its territories. Even so he pressed them to do something that would show he would mean business. This retribution saw some of her staff put in jail. Included was Robert Rochester. Charles V took no action. Mary resorted to hearing the mass less publicly. So Edward ignores her, by this time he was too weak to worry about her, though he never forgives his so-called sisters.



The Seymour brothers Edward (left) and Thomas. Both were very ambitious and very corrupt. Both were executed.

Chapter 4

YOUNG BEAUTY UNDER BLOODY MARY

During Edward's reign, the first known large portrait of Elizabeth was painted, commissioned at Edward's request. If it has survived, it is most likely the one in the present Queen Elizabeth's collection. This picture shows her in a red dress, a typical hairstyle (in a bonnet) of the period and a plain looking face. However, there was a cryptic note attached to the painting that Edward received, in Elizabeth's hand apparently, saying, "For the face, I *guarantee* I might well blush to offer, but the mind I shall never be ashamed to present".³⁴

Its obvious Elizabeth wanted to be at court, from the note, but why would she blush to offer her face? Could it be she didn't like her own appearance? I believe this note can only mean she refused to have her picture painted. So if this picture of Elizabeth in the red dress is the same as Edward's, then even though it is claimed to be her, it is not. Nor does it explain why Edward would be interested in her. Another thing, if the King was after her, why would she send a true likeness when she rejected him?

The reasons for my conclusion (apart from the above) are as follows... Firstly the portrait does not fit with descriptions of Elizabeth, for she had golden blond hair, hung loose. Historians have often confused the word 'auburn' when interpreting comments on Elizabeth. It means red now, but likely to be blond then.³⁵ This has led to a fallacy that Elizabeth was red haired,



These small pictures are the only near accurate likeness of the young Elizabeth that I personally have any faith in. The technique was pretty new when this was painted. This artist has put more effort into the face than the rest of the image, which to me is somewhat crude. The artist was known as a Limner, who was generally a goldsmith and therefore used to small work. The artist's 'brush' wasn't called that, but a pencil. This would develop into the name of the writing instrument, used first by artists.

another is that she went bald when young. She was also driving men up the wall in her teens, as we saw with Thomas. All this leads me to only one conclusion; I believe that Elizabeth was far from plain. She was an extremely beautiful woman, at least to just about everyone else in Europe then. With one notable exception, a women who thought she was ugly - Elizabeth herself.³⁶

The first mention of Elizabeth as beautiful, by an ambassador, comes in Mary Tudor's reign, which brought Elizabeth even harsher times, and a hoard of even more love struck men.

Both of Edward's sisters knew better than to go to the bedside of the dying brother. For one thing he was probably already dead. It's not infeasible that the King knew one or both sisters would still go ahead and press the claim to the throne. The problem is that if he wanted to make sure Jane Grey got it without their competition; he would need to eliminate them. All three children of Henry knew the story of the two Princes in the Tower of London. Was Edward trying (from the grave) to make another story of two Princesses? They were informed, by friends and diplomats, to ignore request to go to him, that were issued. Nicholas Throckmorton claimed to tell Mary, it's not inconceivable that he did tell of the trap. Elizabeth appears to have been sick anyway. They must have been aware that the succession had been altered to favour Jane. Both were agreed it should be Mary next, no-matter whoever it was changed to. They thus had one of the luckiest escapes from death in the Tower, in history and then one of them was destined to have another.

If London greeted Jane Grey in silence, others there were shouting "long live our good Queen Mary". Not that Mary knew any of it. She was still thinking those on the Privy Council were all against her. That may have been the case with those now supporting Jane's right to rule, not all however. Some, like

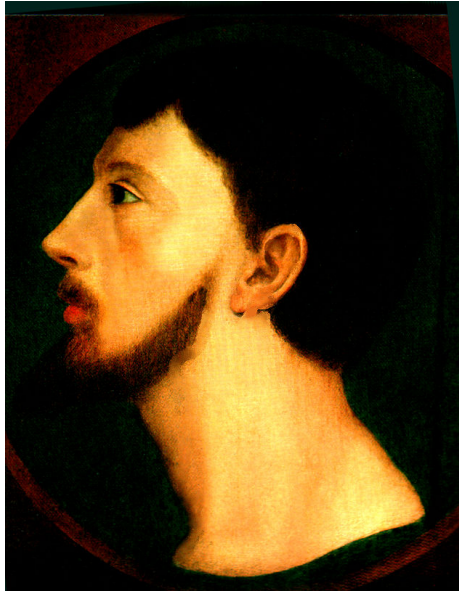
William Cecil, were in favour of the true monarch who was Mary, maybe even Robert Dudley who was sent to capture Mary and failed. You can't do a task you don't believe is right, can you? Mutiny! I hear you call; it certainly was on the cards.

Jane Grey went to the Tower, but not a prisoner, to wait for her crown. Afterwards she was paraded in the streets of London, the crowd stood dumb. For punishment was to be meted out to anyone speaking out against the 'monarch elect'. Jane must have realised, from this reaction; she was up the creek without a paddle. Perhaps this is the reason she refused to put the crown on Guildford Dudley (her husband) at her coronation. She knew it would be a costly mistake and it was.

Her father-in-law's (John Dudley) armies, naval captains and crews, within a few weeks were shouting the very same words as the Londoners. Very soon Jane's father and father-in-law were shouting them as well.

The rightful monarch rode into London very differently. Mary dressed in a French gown, encrusted with jewels and the best finery, behind her notables & ladies, plus her sister.

Mary's hate of Elizabeth didn't stop when she became Queen. Even so, Elizabeth congratulated her on becoming Queen and desired to be friends with her. The first test of her loyalty was to see how she behaved at the coronation, which took place on the 1st October 1553. The new Queen was clad in a purple dress with ermine. The gold coronet, with jewels would have been a pain to wear, as it was so heavy. Any animosity towards Elizabeth was not present at the ceremony and she & Anne of Cleves were resplendent in silver gowns. Elizabeth's heavy coronet was something to talk about, breaking the ice, at these occasions and she started talking to the French ambassador, Antoine de Noailles, moaning about its weight. It was an entirely innocent remark, yet also a great mistake. If you ask me Noailles was



Thomas Wyatt's love or loyalty for Elizabeth nearly gets her fried, but that long neck makes a perfect target for Bloody Mary's executioner. His final words stop the Queen acting on her life.

Simon Renard (right), might also think Elizabeth's hot, because he can't take his eyes off of her. Still her attitude sends him up the wall.



smitten. He wasn't the only one; Simon Renard couldn't stop looking in Elizabeth's direction either. He heard the conversation, with the French man and him saying she would soon be wearing something better. Simon's attitude is very different to what he really thought. She frustrated him with her oh so right ways.

Mary allowed her to come to court, although reluctantly. The court ceremonies were now turning into Catholic Church practices. Part of the mass could have included the reading of Solomon's Proverbs, one of which warned to beware of strange and wanton women. This then the Queen would see as direct allusion to her so-called sister. Mary undoubtedly did not trust her English court. This didn't stop her giving out pardons to all and sundry, even Nicholas Throckmorton. Half-Spanish, she put great trust in foreign advisers. Not that she got all those that she might have wanted from the English side. Some refused, like William Cecil, though he did not decline to help out. Nonetheless she would rule through God. Simon Renard, one of the advisors told her not to trust the young Princess, for she was a Protestant. Renard informs us that all around his sovereign would "cheat and mislead her".³⁷ Eh! Kettle calling saucepan black methinks. God or more likely Mary made some right bloomers. She quickly promoted the Duke of Norfolk, regardless of him having an aversion to Mary, in the elapsed time. Being of the old religion made all the difference with her, her choice of council is also bizarre, to those who don't understand how she functions on these levels. She found out that some, of those on her brother's council, had taken her side all along. While others had strong Catholic beliefs, such as Stephen Gardiner, known to the Queen because he helped Henry VIII with his marriage problems, not however to Catherine's and her daughter's benefit. Makes you think why these people were appointed. Nonetheless

she could not execute all those who she disliked, for not supporting her. Simply on the grounds of those put to death would outnumber the living. Yes I know she was brought to power on the strength of popular support. I'm just stressing that it was the people SHE disliked. Then again, soon she would be able to get rid of those she could; earning the name historians would give her. No one suspected what she would become, for she was already something quite unique. A miraculous thing had happened to the monarch, for her subjects visualised her as the Virgin Mary. Well her name was that and she was unspoilt by the hand of man. Who therefore could blame them? Like many people in a position of power, she started out with good intentions and promises. Also akin to them, they and she didn't keep. In the new Queen's rationale, when saying that she wishes the people should be free to go to mass, yet knowing her actions previously, being economical with the truth seems more to the point. Having little choice was the explanation; defending shaky ground does this to you. This is why King Edward is likely to have been the only King of England that had two funeral services. One was Catholic and the other one Protestant. I'm not clear if Mary went to both. Though as the Protestant service was held where he is interred, in Westminster Abbey, she must have gone to it surely.

The court itself quickly held only old religion displays and ceremonies. Members were pressed to attend them only. In the rest of the country Mary's religious craze had a huge problem. The Catholic infrastructure had been savaged over the many years. The effect on the communities could be compared to those of the industrial decline of Britain in the 1980's. Where factories or shipyards stood derelict and decaying, insert instead (in Tudor England) stood churches, monasteries and abbeys broken & smashed. Mind you had they had the others, they too would have

been like that, as the country went into debt to control economic problems, still like Mrs Thatcher used to say inflation fell and was under control, for the time being.

Understandable those who tried to perform the mass and practices of old were attacked. Matters were made worse by the Queen's religious appointees verbally slighting the bishops, whom they replaced. Action had to be taken and unlike during Edward's time, it was. Reports soon got out that Princess Elizabeth didn't go to mass. She was pulled into line. After a lot of persuasion! Mary got her to the mass, setting about and to some extent succeeded in turning her into a Catholic. The Queen described her first meeting with the 20-year-old, to her advisers. When she told them Elizabeth was 'shaking' and very timid in her presence, they said it was all an act. Should we take Mary's male courtiers too seriously, as they spend a lot of time squabbling? The Queen needed teamwork from them; her lousy choice insured none. I therefore believe it wasn't an act, but was additional proof of her shyness. I furthermore judge that Mary, who was plain and nearing 40, was jealous of her good looks! Maybe annoyed at comments such as this from one ambassador, who said of Elizabeth, 'her figure and face are very handsome and she has a dignified air about her that no one can suppose she is a Queen (?)'.³⁸

We can now put together how Elizabeth appeared. Blond, golden hair down to her shoulders, a great figure and face and a dignified style about her. Not surprisingly the marriage offers flowed in. Another ambassador said he would divorce his wife to marry her. This as can be imagined, was no light step to be taken then. After all not, as I've already explained, even Henry VIII could get one of them! Yet she turned them all down. Was this because of reasons of politics? As many historians think, I doubt it, more likely because of simple shyness again. Another thing

that would have been noticeable, for it was to those from the continent, was a greeting by kissing on the face, in the court. This is now seen as a French custom (did they get the idea from the English). Now it's very possible that Elizabeth tended not to engage in this custom (being shy) so when men approached her, she backed off quick! She simply offered only her hand! Notwithstanding men can respond to it simply or passionately.

On the other hand, men were not exactly knocking on Mary's door and she wanted to get married. By the time it came to discuss that the Queen had already fallen for the hype about being the 'Virgin Mary'. At least that's what she told all and sundry. The best she could get was an arranged marriage, with Philip of Spain, even though she was Queen of England! This was also due to her need to get permission from the Emperor of Spain. Everyone in the court being told the Emperor Charles was her 'true' father. This means (in her eyes) that she had divorced her real dad King Henry. Well you can't blame her for that! Renard, arranged the marriage, this would have been difficult had she been Charles' daughter, yet has he wasn't, the match with his son could follow. The rest of Mary's councillors warned of the serious consequences of marrying Philip. Parliament did the same. Poor Philip had no choice in this matter, neither did the people. Still it was England who gave her an ultimatum, starting with Kent.

Before any action was taken, on the first request, delivered by Simon, Mary accepted unconditionally. She spent some sleepless nights over this, still without any intention of changing her mind, unless she didn't like him. Then (in her belief) God stepped in and made up her mind. She would marry Philip.

Elizabeth hadn't really been a threat to her, however the English Queen marring Philip of Spain created supporters for Elizabeth, whether she wanted them or not! Philip was of course

Catholic; however that did not make the marriage popular with even some of the English Catholics. First off she tried to assure them nothing would change, adding that she been married to her first husband - England. This fell on death ears in all but one person - Elizabeth. Anyone, in Mary's eyes, who did not agree with her, became automatically an Elizabeth supporter; such was Mary's hatred. Elizabeth was caught in the middle of it all. Yet I suggest that because of her shy nature and liking of people generally, in particular her relations (bad or not), she did not take up with Mary's enemies. The Queen would have none of it, she just could not see, hate clouding Elizabeth's true nature to her. Mary could also not see how unpopular she had become in England. In a society where marriages were based on property, Mary's was England. Who today would give their country away like that, a simply transfer of property rights to Spain. Subsequently this preoccupied both houses of parliament, every time they met, even ignoring the national debt of maybe near on a million pounds.³⁹ Her sister saw this unpopularity once, going to mass with her. It terrified her! Leaving her pale and grasping for breath. so much so, one of the ladies in waiting had to rub her till the colour came back. It didn't scare the Queen one bit, perhaps she was used to it, that is people shouting 'treason' at her. Mind you the man that did it had been in prison before and might have had a grudge with Mary. Nevertheless Simon Renard told Mary that Lady Elizabeth was her enemy. Mary didn't need to be told that, for when it came to Elizabeth, she did not mince her words. She called her a bastard, a heretic and a hypocrite.⁴⁰ Clearly Elizabeth had already 'bewitched' Renard, as that is what he liked to call her 'presence'. To be expected with most men, now and then, he had made a pass, getting the elbow. Edward Courtenay, Simon figured, was having better luck with the young woman. This was undoubtedly solely based on a passionate hand

kiss. Courtenay liked his women, when he wasn't at brothels, he hung around Elizabeth, and this made Renard jealous I think. Meanwhile the French ambassador Noailles was trying to find a way that would stop the Spanish gaining more lands, principally England. Europe by the way expected England to become just a part of France, without any need of invasion. This was good news for the Queen, seeing that she couldn't even pay for the wages of the Calais' soldiers.⁴¹ From the looks Edward was giving the Princess, Noailles came to the conclusion that Courtenay need only marry her.⁴² The resulting rising would be near impossible for the Emperor of Spain to stop. Maybe Edward was shouting his mouth off! perhaps in a joke like fashion like "we would all rise up for Elizabeth". Perhaps the French man didn't get the sexual pun? At no point does he give Mary any credited, quite rightly seeing her as the puppet of the Emperor of Spain.

The English people didn't take well at all to "Jack Spaniard" or in other words Philip, full of pride, lust, vice and a thief. False stories, supposedly being (English) travellers' tales, spread rumours that the Spanish palaces were full of beggars and rift-raft. These were of course outside the English ones, due to the economic problems Edward's rule had left. The English ambassadors would have told you a different story, with Spain having more money, than Mary's court, to spend at least on the surface. It would not make any difference to the people. They had now two grudges with the Queen, both affecting them deeply. Protestants started saying they would die, then suffer Spanish rule. When this kind of talk was reported to Mary she being half-Spanish would take it personally. I can see her words plainly "die, then they will".

Elizabeth left court by mutual consent, before the marriage. Suddenly the Queen was insisting she came back, however she

couldn't because she was ill. Mary thought she was lying or playing up, so she sent her doctors. They confirmed the young woman was ill, but said she could be moved back to London and the court, very slowly. This is what happened.

Elizabeth was carried in a litter to London. There large crowds had gathered. The news must have travelled faster than she did. Perhaps they were cheering, for it is recorded that she drew back the curtains so the people could see. But what did they see? Apparently a beautiful, but pale woman dressed completely in white. as one person wrote of the time, 'Looking proud, haughty and defiant.'⁴³

This wasn't necessarily the case, for shy people tend to give this false impression, to people who are not shy, largely because they often don't know what to say, still it was Simon Renard who wrote it. He can't keep his eyes off her, can he?

Thomas Wyatt was the reason for the sudden calling to court. Edward Courtenay had been making plans with Peter Carew, James Crofts and more importantly with Wyatt. They saw no alternative but to force Mary off the throne. The people of England (most) didn't actually want that. Sure they didn't want Catholicism or 'Jack Spaniard' yet they did not see it as rightful to remove the 'right' Queen. Mary didn't accept that they carried out what they did purely on the grounds she was getting married. She might well have been right. During the crisis she had already lied saying, that if her marriage was going to do any damage, it was her duty to remain a virgin. Wow! Bet Elizabeth heard that one! I know in (Mary's case only) it's a lie because she had previously decided it was God's will to marry Philip. Her speech was sugar for the masses though, Mary still didn't mean a word and yet the crowd wept all the same. The rebels therefore had committed treasonous acts against the Queen and she suspected Elizabeth's involvement in them. Something Thomas later

confessed too, after they had captured him. Wyatt's whole action wasn't without some danger to the Queen. At one point archers fired arrows into Whitehall Palace. Once again Mary's bravery has to be admired, even if it was based on a fanatical reliance on God.

Despite having sent for her, Mary did not see Elizabeth, then sent her to the Tower and locked in a room there, when Wyatt had confessed. Stories say that she sat down in the rain before going in the Tower and there is another one where a child sent her flowers, even though visitors had been forbidden. Records do show she didn't enter via Traitors Gate. She had plenty of company. Everybody in knowledge of the plot, quickly being attributed to Thomas Wyatt, thought the Edward Courtenay (Earl of Devon) would take part. He believed he could marry the Queen, as such wasn't against her, simply having sympathy with the cause, yet kept in London during the violence in other parts of the country. Whereas he wasn't involved, as such, Nicholas Throckmorton had been, yet still they both joined the Princess. Then it was the turn of the two foremen at Throckmorton's trial. Due to the law being a mess, with judges/prosecutors restricted in what they could achieve. This combined with the juries' feelings of general dissatisfaction with Mary's potential husband, resulted in Throckmorton getting off from a law that had seen anyone tried by it in the past dead! Mary went barmy, taking three days to calm her! So he went back to see Elizabeth's new home, together with Gawen Carew, James Crofts.

In the Broad Arrow Tower, to this very day, is the inscription of Elizabeth's Italian tutor, jailed at the same time. Above it is a large E in the middle of heart, sort of proves my point about men falling for her! They were not the only ones. Apparently crowds gathered around the Tower of London shouting, "God save the lady Elizabeth," much to Mary's annoyance.⁴⁴ Though some

people believe this last part is not true. On the scaffold, Wyatt denied Elizabeth's involvement and so the Queen's attempt to get rid of her unwanted sister permanently, fell to pieces. The others were not as lucky and stayed till the Queen thought she was pregnant.

The next plan (presumably of Mary's) was to move her into obscurity, but that failed too. Elizabeth was taken from the Tower after only two months there and moved 30 miles away from London. The people offered her food and cheered her all the way. No doubt, to Mary's enemies she was losing her grip. On the other hand, Elizabeth would have been amazed how popular she had become. Something that would grow too!

When Philip did come to England, his 'minimum' entourage consisted of nine thousand nobles, one thousand horses/mules and twenty-five of the top brass of Spain, coupled with the wives and their acquaintances with staff. shifted by 125 ships. Oh nearly forgot three million in gold! This was however small potato to the man himself. Philip's finery of dress and spectacle proclaimed him a king. So much so they told him to tone it down! Perhaps he was making up for his total lack of communication, for he had done nothing to further the marriage since his father had offered him. When they met everyone agreed! That Philip was handsome! Let's just leave it at that, except that Mary wasn't, was also agreed. Communications bogged them down, even after the marriage, as they had no common language. Mary knew Spanish, just not the form he spoke, though she knew what he said, she answered in another, though of course he understood, just couldn't... well you get the point. His English was rubbish, he couldn't even say "good night".

Elizabeth was soon returned to court, even before Philip arrived. Philip's envoy might have seen her and was impressed

and attracted by her. It's also becoming clear that most men were. He knew his master was also a ladies man. He could have been the reason she came back, for he must have talked the Queen into it. If he had nothing to do with it, maybe Renard had a change of mind for the same reason. Even having secret talks with the Spanish, about the mistake Philip would make if he married Mary.

The preparations that were made, for Philip to be paraded, included telling the populace at large to treat the people from Spain nicely. They were also bought off by fake, as it turns out, Spanish coins. Apart from the gold Philip brought with him, Spain's economy was as weak as the English's. They would have been disappointed to hear that too. Both countries, you've guessed it, thought the streets of each other's capitol cities were lined with gold. Though if you ask me Spain had more money!

Philip carried out the duties that were required of him as a husband. Mary's zeal got even stronger, she considered herself pregnant with a new Jesus. Cardinal Pole was also going to bring about unity between England & Rome, by putting the Pope back in command of the Church. The Lords went along with it for it was in reality nothing to them. They would loose nothing anyway. No land, no power, no punishment (so they thought), nothing of what Henry had done and changed. Even so, Protestants went underground, carrying out various attacks. Though a stabbing in the street was probably a robbery or just a violent attack, like you would encounter at any time in history. Yet these became Protestant assaults on Catholics. Likewise churches catching fire, even though fire was widespread, were put down to them. They might have done some of these things and were willing, but alternative explanations are never sought. Religious trickery was used by the new religion's subversives, as well as printed attacks on Mary and Philip.⁴⁵

Then the burnings started. Not, I might add, by the Protestants. John Hooper the ex Bishop of Worcester wasn't exactly on either side in the debate. Still he burned, slowly and horrifically for his convictions.

Historians who justify these forget one thing. Many people then didn't agree with them. Even Philip of Spain, not that he would prove any different later. Some historians, without evidence, because Mary keeps her mouth shut, think she had nothing to do with it. Alternatively, as I think, she was the cause of them being burnt in the first place, as she DID keep quite about it. All the same it was made clear by her, that all such burnings had to be in front of a member of the Privy Council and strong sermons read. Talk about burning religious convictions!

This slaughter was justified by re-enacting the 150 year old Heresy Act. This gave power to a Royal appointed commission. Thus they did the deed of burning the **new** heretics or Protestants. They hadn't been around 150 years earlier in 1401, when the act was first passed. Therefore only those of the true religion were innocent. Mary's henchmen under a Royal Commission would burn 283 people in four years.⁴⁶ Heretics had been burnt over the Tudor period, prior to this. These were those (generally) who spoke out against God. If the trend had continued no more than five would have been burnt in the same period. The root cause was believed (at the time) to have been Philip. It has to be said it was all Mary's doing. One woman got very lucky!

Mary's view of Elizabeth as a heretic makes me wonder if she threatened to burn her! If she did how did the Princes get off? To survive she would have needed a really strong friend in the court. As no historian has ever viewed the possibility of Mary wanting her sister fried, to my knowledge, though they are clear she wanted her dead. I can't be certain who would protect Elizabeth.

She might not have known whom! Thinking it was God. Whatever or whoever this was, somebody must have negotiated between these two women for a meeting to take place. Elizabeth flung herself at Mary's feet⁴⁷ and convinced her sister she would never plot against her. It's likely Mary realised Elizabeth's true nature. I like to believe that the delusion of Elizabeth not being a child of Henry was shattered at this point. Mary could clearly see a likeness in everything about her sister and in her own temperament as Henry's child. In some things they were alike, in others they were poles apart, but they were never going to be close and the Princess left the court for Hatfield House. where she lived it up, dressing the part of a Queen and the life of one. On one occasion, she and the stacks of people who came to see her, went hunting. She dressed the ladies (12) and herself, in white satin, plus 20 yeomen in green!

Plots continued to surface against the Catholic Queen till the end of her life, however if Elizabeth was implicated, Mary didn't believe it or at least never publicly threatened her liberty again. The rest of the reign went from bad to worse. Philip, who she had married after Jane Grey's execution, went back to Spain, former English territories were lost through him (it was believed) and no child was produced. Elizabeth only had to wait for Mary's death, which came in November 1558. One and all, in the court, knew who the next monarch was going to be and flocked around the Princes when she went anywhere, especially if she went to the capitol. Still, it came as a surprise to Elizabeth, after being told more by the action of Mary's ring being given her. She said (in Latin) "this is the Lord's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes"



Getting a true likeness of Elizabeth was a pain in the neck for any artist. It was due to the fact Elizabeth couldn't stand to be seen as beautiful. For this reason all portraits used in this book are ones that escaped her destruction of large images, or small devotional types that Nicholas Hilliard produced. The reason I have not used larger pictures, is that these are what the Queen approved. Ipso-facto false! And the beautiful are gone, destroyed by Elizabeth's order.

Chapter 5

ELIZABETH R

As the new Queen of England, Elizabeth believed the Council of Ministers was too big for the country to afford and cut the numbers to 20. This also got rid of a lot of Catholics, who were not reappointed. Not that she had any hard feelings towards Catholics, she took bad her sister's death, wearing black, when she needed not too. Only the protocols of the Coronation forced her out of it.

Nine new counsellors were appointed. The most significant being William Cecil as Principal Secretary, who had worked under Mary, as well as Edward, but was also advising the young Princess. Most academics believe that Cecil was always loyal to Elizabeth. Most definitely after 1558, however his sympathies probably lied elsewhere, before that date. He worked hard for her, examining 30 letters per day from inside the realm, plus equal (if not more) from those abroad. Mind you he wasn't very tidy, with piles of papers and none in order.⁴⁸ Her government's policies were steered to the middle ground and the Queen frowned upon religious extremes on both sides. Financial the country was so bad it would have seen more bankers jumping of tall buildings than in the Wall Street Crash of 1929, if it had them both! The wealth of the monasteries had nearly gone, sold off, which is why many big Elizabethan houses have 'abbey' in the title, for guess who bought them? The Tudors worse problem was inflation; they couldn't easily get money to cover it from the taxman! Who didn't really exist again, I know, but who couldn't

collect it if one was applied. So it was off to the loan man, who in this case were the mostly members of her Court, fortunately for them Elizabeth, unlike other relatives, would pay them back.⁴⁹ With the cuts to the Council, this left no place for Nicholas Throckmorton. He wasn't entirely trusted by some of those that had got on it. The country did need diplomats, for foreign policy would have to be good to prevent invasion and to ensure that England wasn't going to be seen as a pain in the side of other powers. Even if it was going to be that! So the following year Nicholas was packed off to France. His mission, to get back those parts lost under Mary's stupidity; the results were disappointing to say the least. In truth the French hated him.

Elizabeth's Council wasn't scared of giving out advice either. This was often accepted; even the power to reverse her illegitimate status was questioned and stopped, using their guidance. Becoming Queen itself did not make much impression on Elizabeth's shyness. She told her parliament she was, "A woman wanting both whit and memory, fearful to speak and bashful".⁵⁰

Memory and whit, and wanting in it - never! She gave all her court nicknames and flirted with the men. Even Cecil said she was a happy woman, an understatement to say the least, for she listened to merry tales (jokes) and laughed as if she had been tickled, which is one courtier's description of her laugh. Dancing, dressing and hunting or sports took up the rest of her time. If any of the men thought she was a weak monarch they were in for a shock!

Elizabeth would fit the derogatory phrase 'dumb blond.' Except that, like many women described as that, she was far from dumb. She was blond though. Sir John Hayward restates this, also saying she is beautiful and short-sighted.⁵¹ Another allusion to the dumb blond image is that Elizabeth had a fast,

high-pitched, squeaky voice. This may have been caused by her nose, which may have been broken (maybe whilst she was being carried by her mother) and would account for the exaggerated bump shown in profiles. The sound she made can also be gathered from observers and her speeches, written to some extent as spoken, although Cecil frequently altered her scripts because of her sense of humour.⁵² One can also gather she had a sexy/alluring voice, from the way men talk about her. This beautiful woman started changing her clothes every day, after becoming Queen.⁵³ Previously she had not been allowed to do this. Changing clothes like this, I have found common in shy people, especially women. Many say that they feel more confident. This tends to make them appear vain, which is what historians have said about Elizabeth. The clothes were beautifully decorated and ipso facto would make the woman beautiful, or so she thought.⁵⁴ She, most of all, believed she had to set herself high. As the Queen later says, “The least spot is soon spied”.⁵⁵ This was again in connection with clothes, but she also used it in relationship for all Royal personages.

The problem was that this ‘code of conduct’ she set herself and her shyness, made her lonely. The court had a solution to that, marriage. It would also solve the heir to the throne problem and wasn’t too difficult to arrange. Even the Pope, some years later, said he wanted to marry her! The royal families of Europe sent their ambassadors as soon as she was crowned.⁵⁶ This was because she was beautiful, not just that she was a queen. The first formal proposal of her reign was King Philip’s of Spain.⁵⁷ In her sarcastic style of humour, Elizabeth eventually refused

54. If as the reader you’re confused by all this, imagine a cross between a cat-walk model and Princess Diana and you’ll get the idea of what the Queen was like. Then give her Marilyn Monroe’ voice and blond image and you might understand her more.

saying; *“Philip would only come for the wedding and then leave for Spain, like he had done with Mary. Besides,”* she said, *“I’m a heretic!”*⁵⁸

Philip, when his man told him, must have felt deeply insulted. Added to this she read out to the court Philip’s love letters, perceived by his ambassador as an insult. The Spanish King didn’t forget what she had said either, as we will see later. The amazed, confused court of the Queen’s could not understand why she had turned a handsome man down and Spain’s empire. Some of them might have thought that Elizabeth could control Philip better than Mary could, as she was well known for her wisdom. Elizabeth might have thought otherwise, but her reluctance to marry and her insults didn’t put anyone off trying. At one point there were 12 ambassadors at the palace seeking a marriage. The whole thing became farcical; with the various ambassadors throwing insults at one another and fights breaking out.⁵⁹ The Queen had to arrange it so that they were kept apart. She was like some weird game show host, asking questions, if the ambassador got them right, their King won the prize, which was the host, who in this case was more glamorous than the assistant! Despite all the pressure she would not marry. She insisted that all suitors would have to come to England first, before any offer was formalised, to view them. Way beyond normal protocols at that time. If she was planning to marry anyone, indeed it wasn’t ruled out, even though she stated often she would remain a virgin, this woman wasn’t going to make her father’s mistake. Although she did take people, like Cecil’s, advice, Elizabeth had no intention of marrying on political grounds, though it was taken under advisement. Some historians imply that Cecil was pressing this issue. Well he was, but only as part of being a Civil Servant, in reality he was being pressed by every ambassador and every man in England who saw her. Most of the contestants of the ‘Queen

Elizabeth Marriage Game' eventually gave up. As they did, I can imagine going through Elizabeth's mind, was "another one that wasn't serious". Equally going through her courtiers' minds like Lord William Howard, who I imagine looking fed up and shrugging his shoulders, as he said, "She will never be moved by any".⁶⁰

Then there was Robert Dudley. 'Sweet Robin' she called him. Elizabeth had known him since childhood. He was also the same age; they also were in the Tower, at the same time, though kept apart, during Mary's reign. Previously he might have secretly helped her when she got into trouble with Edward, her brother. This was because he was from a family that had strong links to the Tudors. Robert was indeed a good friend to the boy king. However most of these connections caused them trouble. This linkage was more often than not in the form of marriage, without a doubt it's quite likely that some form of marriage proposal had been suggested by Robert's father (with an older son than Robert very likely John Dudley) to Elizabeth around 1549. They had gone elsewhere for Robert, after the rejection, marrying the young Robert the day after his brother.⁶¹ So in 1558, he had been married eight years, but his wife was ill, with an unrecognised illness then, which turns out to be breast cancer,⁶² from the references to 'lumps' and a 'strange malady of the breast'. He somehow gave Elizabeth confidence; thus she relied on him a great deal. She forgot her code of conduct and they started to have fun, teasing, tickling one another. The court gossip was rife. Paradoxically rumours, about her marrying Dudley, may have started by rejected admirers in the shape of Philip of Spain or Charles, King of Sweden. Since Robert did well out of the relationship, money wise, he was hardly likely to say anything. Plus it would have been a different matter if she were a man. William Cecil as Principal Secretary, who was supposed to

advise the Queen on matters of state, couldn't get five minutes with her. One of the Queen's chief ladies even asked the Queen if she had done it! Elizabeth replied, "Nothing could happen with servants around me day and night, though if I had the will or found the *time*,⁶³ then God preserve me, I do not know anyone who could *stop* me".⁶⁴

The 'will' was perhaps another allusion to her shy nature and the lady? Yes it was Kate Ashley! She was still ever a gossip and quite an old lady now.⁶⁵

Two things more can be added, before she regained control of herself and the code snapped back on. First, Robert's wife Amy⁶⁶ fell down the stairs at her home and died alone. The court gossips were quick to infer Robert had arranged her death. The inquest of the time cleared him, but suspicion was still there. We now know that because of her illness, Amy would reject Robert and the cancer would weaken her spine. Even a small stumble could have killed her and it did. The Queen sent him away from the court. She had been planning to make him Earl of Leicester. According to some she furiously slashed to bits the document that was to make him Earl.⁶⁷ She more likely calmly cut it up to prevent it being used. Some academics use Alvaro de la Quadra (the Spanish ambassador) comments, to make it look that Elizabeth knew that Amy had died before the date of her actual death was known. Yet they (the English court) were probably playing a silly joke on him. Even William Cecil was in on it. Ironically Amy did die, days after the joke was said! It wasn't the last time this chap was made fun of.

Elizabeth's temper was not as bad as historians have made out. John Clapham, a servant of Cecil, said she was very kind after telling people off the minute before.⁶⁸ Elizabeth, was however sometimes very moody and the court had to be careful what they said to her on those days. The 'fun' of teasing and

tickling was never lost in her, she seems to have used frequently. Who knows, it may have relieved the frustration of her self-enforced celibacy?

The second reason was her cousin Mary Stuart saying “I hear you’re going to marry your horse keeper”.⁶⁹



Robert Dudley of all the Queen's men should have been fully aware of how shy the Queen was. He had known her since they were kids. However in all the research I have seen, I think like the rest of the court he had no idea.

Philip of Spain (right) was prepared to send an Armada for the insults Elizabeth flung his way to avoid her marriage. And in 1588 he did!



Friends or enemies. For Mary Stuart, the Bishop of Ross (left) ended up supporting his own interest. Catherine de Medici (the Queen of France) was glad to get rid of her.



James Stuart (left) was Mary's half-brother, had no claim to the Scots Crown, still he was glad to get her out of Scotland.

William Maitland had the first political row with Elizabeth. I also found strange images of faces (in this picture) on both sides of his head!

Chapter 6

THE WOMAN FROM FRANCE

Robert Dudley was the Queen's Horse Keeper. That doesn't sound like an important role in the Elizabethan world; nevertheless one horsepower was the best you could get. They don't bother with grand titles for jobs in the Sixteenth Century; his equivalent today would be the Minister for Transport, who certainly wouldn't like to be called the Wheels Keeper! Mary Stuart's rude remark deeply upset the Queen of England, even though she was only a distant cousin. For Elizabeth knew she could never marry Robert from that moment on, it was socially unacceptable. In other words he was the wrong class.⁷⁰ The Transport Minister of our time would also have a job to marry a young single Queen. So Dudley's social standing was wrong as well. That she did not give up trying proves she wanted to marry him, but there was her 'code' of acceptable behaviour for a Queen, which appears to have needed the approval of the society of the court. Robert however created jealousy by his platonic relationship with the Queen and few believed that it was no more than friendship. Historians doubt that nothing happened. I'm convinced nothing could, he never gained (completely) her trust! Thomas Radcliffe (Earl of Sussex) called Dudley the "Gypsy" and shows a high level resentment to him, which was either status based or sexual jealousy of him and Elizabeth. The need of the endorsement of others is best demonstrated when later, in the years to come, she and Robert even tried to get Mary's approval for their wedding. This does not mean that Elizabeth had

intentions of marrying Robert at this time, far from it! Their respective attitudes were more like brother & sister; the Queen called him bother also.⁷¹

Mary Stuart was good at upsetting Elizabeth and because her relatives seem to have held great sway with her, she took this seriously. Indeed most of the Queen's court was related to her. Around the time of the coronation, Mary pressed home the claim to the English throne and said it was hers. She was descended from Elizabeth's grandfather (Henry VII) after all. Mary appealed to Elizabeth on it further in 1561, but she was then in no position to demand the throne and had to content herself with asking to be declared heir. In truth she could not demand anything. This stemmed from her past also.

Mary Stuart, or Stewart, was born in Scotland, December 1542, a country plagued by war. Her father & mother were James V (of Scotland) and Mary of Guise. His parents were James IV and more importantly Margaret Tudor, the daughter of Henry VII. Mary grew up completely different to Bolyn's child, but she nearly became the English Queen before Elizabeth.

At only nine months of age, Mary was part of Henry VIII's plan to create peace between England and Scotland.⁷² Under this plan she would have eventually married Edward, Henry's son. The Scots were not so keen on the plan and crowned her 'Queen of Scots' during the negotiations. That ended that, for if you ask me, Henry was not prepared to let his son marry a Queen with his son just a prince. Fighting again broke out and the Scots to ensure French support, arranged for Mary to go to France in 1548, where she would marry later and secure an alliance, similar to what had happened previously with Mary's mother and father, only reversed. The only problem, when this was first discussed, was that there was no-one even born yet. She eventually married Francis II, son of Henry II and Catherine de Medici.

Mary's education in France was as good, if not better than Elizabeth's. Again languages were always considered essential for royals, also her native tongue being taught, even English. Well if you should be running the country, you'll need to understand what the people say. What's clear is she was given little instruction in how to write English, from the trouble she has with it later. Either that or was she a good pupil? Her Scotch isn't good moreover and she can't write Latin. No, must be the answer then. She liked poetry and drama, like her cousin, but was dressing much better than the English Princess could at her age. One occasion saw her in a dress of gold cloth, embroidered all over, while her neck had pearls and rubies, dangling from a necklace.

What if Mary's background and up bringing are factors in how she behaved and acted. Then her problem is that she was brought up in a rich and luxurious lifestyle, therefore this decadent court morally corrupted her. Her guardian (who shouldn't have been, according to the Scots) the King, had affairs with her Scottish governess Mary Fleming (who got pregnant), as well as the long-standing one with the beautiful Diane de Poitiers. She, in turn, made the court respectable to other countries, by covering up its excesses. Mary was fond of her... Well what would you call Diane? As for her future mother-in-law Catherine de Medici, she came from a bad family altogether. One who was Pope caused the split in religion – Catholic & Protestant, in the first place. He had tried to raise cash by absolving sins, using a piece of paper from the Church that you paid for. Martin Luthor argued it was wrong and the split came about. As a result the family were nearly wiped out and so Catherine is not fond of Protestants. She might well have picked up some of the families other bad habits.

The reason the Scots found the King's guardianship of her

unacceptable was that it broke the same type of rules about monarchy that Elizabeth passionately believed in. In that Mary was the Scottish Queen, thus Henry was interfering in things he shouldn't. The outcome of this action, at the very least gave a sort of 'invisible' crown to Mary's mother, back in Scotland. I also think Henry wasn't very good at this task and this added to Mary's personality a high opinion of herself. Could it be right to give the 12-year-old child, the task of running her own household? Now if she was competent, to take on this task, has a bearing on whether she would make a good Queen later on. Nevertheless she doesn't make a good Queen later on!

Royal France would have been dazzling after Scotland,⁷³ but Mary wasn't in Scotland long enough to know the difference. She knew even less about Scotland when she returned in 1561, after her mother's death. Whilst she had grown up in the French court, Scotland went through revolutionary changes in politics and religion and to all intents and purposes, became a Protestant country. Even her mother couldn't fight it in the end.

When Elizabeth became Queen of England, the Scots could begin to settle their fights, which had continued during Mary Tudor's reign, between them. Not however straight away due in part to the French and her snubbing them (in Scots' eyes) when offered a Scottish man to marry. Thus the English had to fight them to try and get the French out of Scotland. This turned into a disaster when the siege at Leith broke and the English were defeated. In 1560 William Cecil, pulling off the deal of a lifetime drew up the Edinburgh treaty. He negotiated the French troops out of Scotland. However, the Scots and the English had not banked on Mary's return.

Negativity to certain people can be traced, in Mary's case, back to her first husband. She describes him once as a 'slow-witted child'. At the time it was put down to the pills and

potions that his mother took to try and get pregnant. This is unlikely to be the cause, for the father has also a part to play in the conception. Nonetheless if she had used these medicines, at the time of conception and afterwards, it is possible that abnormalities could occur in the baby, as is well known today. It really depends on what drugs, plant extracts, whatever, she took/used. Some might have been harmful or not, as the case may be. He had plenty of things wrong with him and is called, by even Mary friendly biographers, a 'runt'. Mary completely fooled or part-fooled her mother-in-law Catherine de Medici, who was blind to her son's problems, unlike those biographers! Actually from what we know of Catherine's character, this would NOT be easy to do, except in her son's case. She saw her daughter-in-law as the helpful big sister that was protective to her boy. How stupid are adults! I've seen this in schools and the work place, anyone with Mary's attitude, later on in life, is often like that when young. Teacher's pet/star pupil, or the best worker, is often the biggest rogue going. What's betting Mary twisted the boy's ear, after showing them how affectionate she was to Henry and Catherine? Not that they would be interested, for their concern was for policies of the government they ruled. Thus they created the first problem for Mary Stuart (not that she ever saw it as that) by naming his son and daughter-in-law as the rightful monarchs of England. This would have seen Nicholas Throckmorton playing hell with the French monarchy. Trying to persuade Mary's husband to see the folly of this saw her butting in every time. This was not the first time he had seen her, though he thought then (as she was so ill) she was ready to pass on to the next life. Oh, on another occasion she tried to chat him up!

The problem with early age arranged marriages are that neither party has experienced any kind of sexual activity (usually) or know anything about sex. With the Catholic religion,

that even today isn't that keen on it, from what one can gather. Put these two together and it's unlikely, in Mary's and her new husband's case, that sex happened! What Antonia Fraser calls 'the natural ignorance of youth'⁷⁴ in 1970, now seems very dated for 16-year-olds. Yet it is a fair assumption for those times. They were both very young, even if they were put in the same bed. Without sex education of any kind, many people think kissing is a form of (or is) sex! So if Mary had a period, loosing blood, while in bed with him, the adults would ask if they had sex, or think that she had lost her virginity. If she didn't know what sex was, she couldn't answer them correctly. So she was no doubt a virgin, she certainly did not get pregnant, while she was married to Francis, despite the fact she put on clothing associated with it. Although to be fair they were married two years, so it might have happened at some point. The Venetian ambassador believed that intercourse had taken place on the wedding night, which doesn't mean it did (see above). Meanwhile the Spanish ambassador was convinced that it was impossible for Mary to become pregnant by Francis. The reason... "No balls" would have been Mary's likely expression connected with her marriage to her first husband. In his case it was literally true!

The real reason for it was that her marriage had the interests of France behind it. If Mary understood the pieces of paper that she did sign before it took place, then she was living in a fool's paradise. Although I am critical of Ms Stuart, because of what she is, I don't think that she understand the contract she probably had to sign. It did manipulate and force Scotland into paying for the military expenditures France had provided, for fighting its battles and providing fortifications, as well as troops, over the wars with England. This would have annoyed the Scottish rulers and peoples, but they were not told about it. Mary was forced to keep the entire contract details secret, nor could she break any of

the contract conditions, without loosing her rights. In the first part of these (secret) marriage conditions, some have concluded that her later son James would be robbed of his birthrights.⁷⁵ I can't see how this would come about from the details I have seen. Unless the contract fine points about Mary's death, without issue, refer only to there being no issue from this French marriage. For if this is the case, these bits of paper gave the power to the French King, to claim the Scottish Throne (and the English), when Mary died in 1587. More to the point, if it doesn't mean that, then it does not deny James' birthrights to the Scottish Throne and the English one. Also history proves he got both. And moreover, no French King tried to take or claim the Scottish Crown, after 1587. Even though Mary did nominate Philip II of Spain as her successor in these documents, this has still nothing to do with the troubles that existed after Mary's execution and subsequent events many years later. It is widely accepted that Philip II had a claim to the English Throne; he's not that interested in Scotland, by his marriage to Mary Tudor. Equally claims by France have also long pedigrees attached to them. Thus I don't believe for an instance that England and France, plus England and Spain have been fighting each other in the past, because of Mary Stuart.

The wedding itself to Francis, was more fairy tale than Princes Diana's. It was of course held in Paris at the Cathedral of Notre Dame on the 24th April 1558. Mary was covered in jewels from head to foot, in a blue and white gown, what you could see of it. Afterwards they were paraded through the streets of Paris, to a right Royal feast before the high and mighty of France and the rest of the world – except of course Elizabeth, though English diplomats would have been present. Funnily enough the only people to develop food poisoning from this feast, was the visiting Scots delegation. Catherine de Medici is reported to have kept

her own chemist shop, apparently. Well not really a shop as such, but clearly liked her pills and potions. Part of the family business!

With Mary's husband dead,⁷⁶ and we can quote her comment on him, for she later appears to propose to anything in trousers, or whatever men wore at that time; "regarded him as my true husband". Whatever she means by that! She wasn't grieving long over her "true husband". In England there was gossip (from of all people William Cecil) of her marrying within a few days. She officially should have stayed in strict seclusion for 40 days after his death. She cuts this down to less than 14, before she was talking to a 'male' relation. Who could have got married to her, even if she had seen only friends and relatives, technically she should have seen nobody. This would seem harsh, but it is their rules not mine or ours. After that, things became a little hot for her in France. Catherine de Medici had words with the young woman, after a marriage plan with Philip of Spain's son was suggested.⁷⁷ Mary was perhaps now made aware that she was still a virgin, besides she had gained a lot from the previous marriage and could get more, she assumed. The Spanish man in question was... well James Mackay describes him as a "misshapen dribbling oaf." And I'm trying to resist thinking, that Mary has a plan to marry physically challenge men, or ones she considered idiots, later in life, to get their money. It sort of blows it out of the water, my resistance, when James reveals his redeeming feature is money.⁷⁸ Catherine was only worried it would undermine her own daughter's position, whom was married to his father. Mary, by some could be described as basically what we would call an awkward teenager. So she decided it was time to go back to Scotland, taking a 12,000 allowance from her former husband's estate, a love of luxury and an enormous amount of confidence. She thought that everything

would be plain sailing when she got back to Scotland, for instance. Oh yes she was 'Marie' too, not the common Scots 'Mary.' Mary was thus the exact opposite of Elizabeth confidence-wise. The new Scots Queen for one thing, knew she was attractive and quite satisfied with her appearance. I find it strange also that some of the pro-Mary lobbies find her not much of a beauty. Again I do find her as a beauty, for her to turn the heads of many a man that HAS seen her. Put this together with a facemask, which although claimed as not her, I passionately believe it is that of Stuart. She had no hang ups about marriage either, after all she only had to kiss a man and sleep in the same bed. 'Easy' she must have thought! Was she in for a rude awaking! Nor was she going to change anything, especially her name! At 18 she was in her prime. It shows in her portraits, for despite getting older her face remains consistent. Conversely comparing her with Elizabeth, we find that the English Queen might have even conned the court ladies into sitting for her. Perhaps this was done to protect the Queen, for some portraits look like them. Though and if they didn't, she ended up telling painters to produce portraits that looked like her, but didn't. Daft as that sounds! Any portraits that showed her as a beauty were later destroyed. These might have been commissioned by people who insisted the artist painted her as she was. Others and those done when she was older either were not seen by the Elizabeth or, I suspect, she did not think they showed her as a beautiful woman. However I don't think that artists have changed much over the years, insisting on painting a thing their way or not painting, whatever it is they were asked to do, at all!

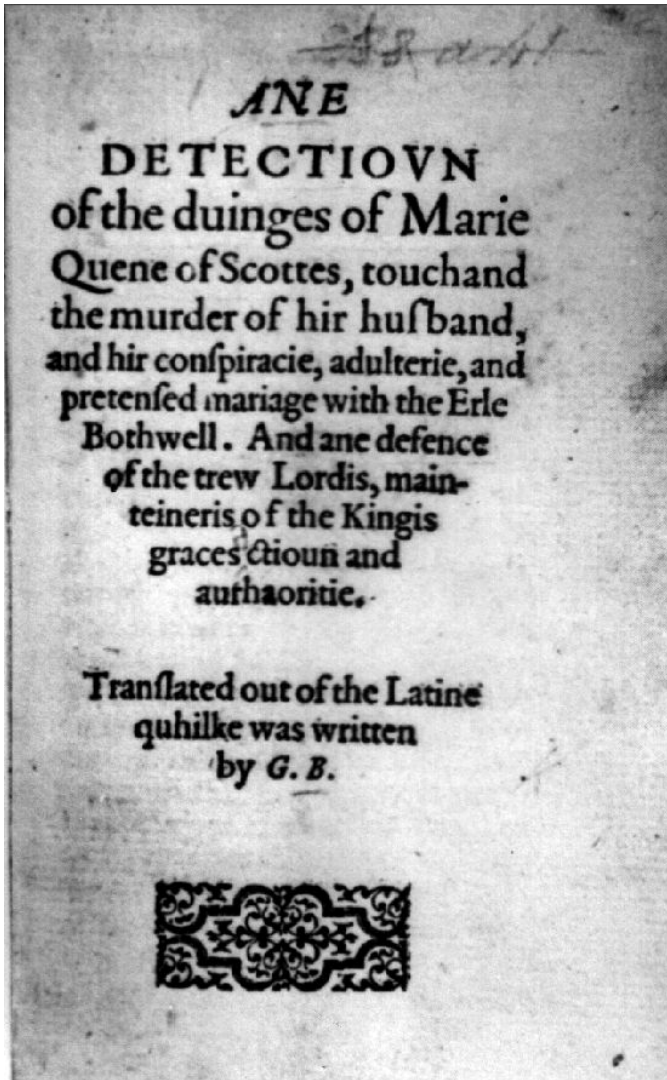
The Catholic Queen Mary returned to Scotland, landing in Leith in August 1561, where she wasn't wanted. She had no idea that Scotland was expecting, on her arrival, something like cataclysmic events to start taking place. She did see lots of

English ships, sent out with instructions to watch and refuse entry to any 'English' port. They don't appear to have engaged the Scots' Queen's fleet, contrary to some ideas they were sent out to see that Mary did not even get into Scotland. Once there, because she was Queen of Scots, there was nothing the Scots could do, but protest. On her arrival in Edinburgh, she was greeted by protesters burning religious effigies. Apart from that, things settled down quite quickly. The beauty of Mary Stuart saw to that. Catholicism on the other hand, didn't get an increase in support simply by Stuart being there. In reality the population either stayed Catholic or Protestant. Without laws or force, needed to change it, Scotland kept the new religion alive and growing. This in part was due to Nicholas Throckmorton, becoming a thorn in Stuart's side, not intentionally done by him I must point out. Most of the players in the future attack on Mary's Scottish rule, were helped by him to get out of France. James Melville, for instance, got to Scotland on Throckmorton's advice to the Privy Council. Despite fears that Mary would act as an agent to change Scotland back, to the old religion, the likes of John Knox, might have helped it grow, with speeches that condemned Stuart as soon as she set foot in the land. Knox got to his home after he apologised to the English Queen, for calling her 'monstrous'. Notwithstanding she did not forgive him. Knox himself was the leader of Protestant rebels who had sought shelter in Geneva during bloody Mary's reign. His followers had been bringing back to England and Scotland their version of the bible in book form, since the new Queen took the throne.

If truth be told, Mary more than likely had the opposite effect on the old religion, helping to convert people. Mary wanted to be allowed to worship in that manner, but almost certainly thought given time, she could change Scotland back. To what extent Mary gained power there is perhaps revealed by the assassination

of her adviser David Riccio⁷⁹ in 1566. Stabbed so many times the body would have pale after they washed the blood away, apparently some of it is still there! Mary undoubtedly was having an affair with Riccio or if she wasn't, it feasibly seemed so to everyone else in the court, especially her husband who was jealous. Was this enough for him to plot with the killers for his death? Yet this adultery cannot be based on a historical judgement, from what has been placed into print many years later. For this is based on Elizabeth's use of the word 'love' to describe Stuart's impropriety with David. This word was in connection with his status in the Scottish Court. In other words Stuart was pushing him up the ladder faster than normal. Nobody would have placed much attachment to it if it had been a female; Mary was giving this added importance too. This type of love then, that the Queen mentioned, was the non-sexual form I here this word a lot, used in this context, where I come from in Sheffield. Doesn't mean that Mary wasn't having an affair with either Riccio or for that matter Bothwell, just doesn't prove she was.

Whatever she had to say about the Scots, however, which doesn't seem a lot, most of them just didn't like it. The Scottish form of the Protestant Church saw her as evil, not just simply because she was Catholic. She had more enemies than friends, yet could entice all that saw her. This ability Mary used to the full.



G. B. in this case stands for George Buchanan. He was a former Mary Stuart supporter and oddly an academic. So Leopards can change their spots!

Chapter 7

NAME ME OR ELSE!

Having established herself in Scotland, barely, Mary Stuart anger was directed at clause six of the Treaty of Edinburgh. She sends William Maitland, her secretary, within two weeks of her landing, to see the English Queen. The following is what took place at the English Court.

Maitland handed the Queen, letters he had been given. Elizabeth's first concern was the Edinburgh Peace Treaty, that Mary had said she would ratify and hadn't.

Maitland replied "Her Majesty has been busy".⁸⁰

Mary's only objection was that clause. It was drafted on the grounds that the French King had given Mary and her deceased (now) husband the titles of England & Ireland. It doesn't preclude the Scottish Queen taking these titles, after of course, Elizabeth's death. It does stop her saying or carrying any Coat of Arms, which indicates she is currently the rightful monarch of the lands in question. Still, like some historians, she wasn't that bright to work this out. She makes it clear to Maitland, he is to stress it excludes her completely. Part of Elizabeth's reply does show us how she felt about the letters Maitland had brought and his remarks. "Are you desirous to have your Queen acknowledge an heir and not acknowledge herself a friend (*first*)?"⁸¹

There had already been a war with the Scots over this very issue; the English had called it the 'War of the Insignia.'⁸²

Maitland wouldn't commit his Queen to anything and it was 'difficult' for Mary. Elizabeth then states her position on heirs and Mary being one and this put simply is what she said:

"I do not deny she is of royal blood of England, I do love her of being the same blood. I never have acted against her, even though she has assumed the arms and title of my kingdom. I suppose she will not try to take the thrown from me, while I live, nor any children, whom possibly I may bring forth, debarring them from succeeding in my place. Apart from that, I will do nothing to prejudice her right. What right that is, I don't know and don't intend to find out. I say on oath, I know no-one else who I would prefer, next myself."⁸³

'Next myself' is not Elizabeth being big headed, just the silly way she sometimes behaved and spoke. As for the heir issue, it becomes clear to us after what she has been through; heirs are of little interest to the English Queen. She ended the meeting most likely 'cheesed off' saying she had not spoken so seriously before and they would speak again.

It wouldn't have surprised me if she walked out abruptly, to everyone there surprise, with that closing statement. Maitland and Mary were pushing their luck. Elizabeth of course never did name an heir and gives us the reason in the second interview with Maitland, over a letter from the Scottish Nobles. The Queen asks "What is it they require?" Saying further "*it's nothing* short of a threat!"

"To preserve the Queen of Scots and peace" said Maitland.⁸⁴

"This exceeds all example," said Elizabeth, "*I will be Queen as long as I live, then they can succeed who they like after my death!*" If she was to appoint Mary heir, Elizabeth thought that would put her in danger. She gives numerous examples of other

kings and queens toppled for royal favours and says, “*Some did this for me*” pointing out they didn’t get rewarded for their greed.⁸⁵

Maitland also brought up clause six. Telling the English Queen, with this clause removed, Mary believed she could ratify the treaty. I think it sounds like another sort of threat; nevertheless Elizabeth wasn’t hard nosed on the treaty and believed it could be reviewed with Mary’s agreement to a commission on it.

Back in Scotland, Mary was disappointed. She doesn’t seem to like diplomacy with lots of people and didn’t agree to any commission. Instead she proposed a face to face meeting with the English Queen. She perhaps gave Maitland a good telling off! Elizabeth was advised that it wasn’t the right thing to do. However she did want to meet Mary, then French problems raised their heads, putting an end to any prospects of a summit. Mary became further glum when negotiations over the Spanish marriage broke down, largely because of the Scots Lords; also Cecil advised his Sovereign that it would not be good policy for England, though that carried little weight in the rest of Europe. But the Scots Queen had now a game to play with the English one. Who was going to loose her virginity first, by marrying? She also heard that suitors were flocking to Elizabeth’s door. Maitland gossiping no doubt; and quickly suggested they called at her door as well! This really annoyed Sir William Cecil, seeing only the political problems it caused. This pressure he then applied to the Queen. So Elizabeth offered Robert Dudley, as an alternative, finally creating him Earl of Leicester, for the purpose. This proves that his status was a problem in Elizabeth’s mind. She did this because as she said to Maitland, ‘I do love Mary.’ Some historians have seen this as an ulterior motive, but if it was, it was of good will. I think it was just the type of

person she was. Mary, on the other hand, seems to have thought it meant she would become heir if she did. Mary became disappointed again when Elizabeth denied it. After all, in the Scottish Queen's eyes he was a jumped up nobody! Let's face he was! More tales of the English Queen's romance with Robert got to Stuart's ears as well. The ambassador to Spain, Alvaro de la Quadra, would see to that. The same one they liked to play jokes on. Robert asked him, to my way of thinking, if, as he was a bishop, he could marry them. Quadra was catching on to their tomfoolery; he refused after Elizabeth said he did not know enough English to perform the ceremony. Nothing however, put an end to the Queen's own game for husbands to be, even when she apparently caught small pox from the Spanish man. She did get spots, but unlike Quadra, didn't die. She perhaps didn't get what we would now call small pox, as the Elizabethan's call all the spotted diseases 'pox'. The Queen did get some treatment from a German doctor, yet I think there might have been two forms of the illness around, one mild, certainly survivable, the other form not. The wife of the Earl of Sussex nursed the Queen and she too got it and lived.⁸⁶ Sadly it marked her face for life, with the result she wouldn't come to court again. It left the Queen's face unblemished; perhaps the disease was worse from touching an infected person, or stronger when passed.⁸⁷ Still if it was small pox, it wasn't very rampant, for Robert didn't get it and loads of others did not. The sickness soon became public knowledge and when she had recovered Dean Nowell of St Paul's made it clear that she had to get married. *"Where would you have been then, if your parents had been of your mind?"* ⁸⁸

The Queen, for once let him get away with it, the trouble is that her parents did not want Elizabeth; they wanted Edward, which might explain why she was of that mind. Try as she might she couldn't think of a way to tell Nowell that. Elizabeth did

however have to put an end to Mary's marriage game, by saying it would have been 'unfriendly' to marry outside what we now call the United Kingdom.



Tutbury Castle

Taken at face value Mary's comments on this place would indicate that it was not a decent place to live. George Talbot leased the Castle from the crown and furnished it with thier help. It was a good hunting base and very secure, so at lease she was safe and well fed.



A close view of the laid out body of Darnley. The sores on his legs would have made it near impossible to walk. They put a hole in any theory that he escaped the explosion and being murdered



Darnley was so unpopular in Scotland, that he picked up a bad press. He probably felt so down, that he stayed out drinking all night. This added fuel to the fire and muck raking has him slandered for all sorts of vices.

Even so, he's not a nice man, being implicated in murder and he did get a sexual transmitted disease

Chapter 8

THE KING THAT KILLED HIMSELF

Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley's, pushy mother, wanted Henry to marry Mary Stuart. It made his claim to the English throne stronger for he was also descended from Margaret Tudor, only from her second husband. Queen Elizabeth was not in favour, perhaps for the above reason, yet more likely to be that Henry was not popular in Scotland, as he along with many others had also rights to the Scottish throne. She discovered this unpopularity by pointing out Darnley to Maitland, at court. Maitland disgust was apparent and he also spoke it. She did however agree to let Henry go to Scotland, after Robert Dudley intervened on his behalf.⁸⁹

The upshot of all this was that he married Mary in 1565. It looks as if they had a lot in common and may well have fallen in love. Mary's heart and head were this time in total agreement. Her head thought 'heir to the throne of England'. This didn't matter to Elizabeth; indeed the English Queen may have been told this would happen by her astrologer!⁹⁰ Still she just couldn't let Henry make the biggest mistake of his life.

Throckmorton, who had returned from France in 1563, once again was needed in the role of ambassador to see if he could reason with them, to call the wedding off. So he left in April 1565 for Scotland. He almost certainly bragged that he could convince Mary not to do it. Though the Queen and Council were

more likely convinced he couldn't. He was quite correct, if any could, for he had a friendly attitude to Stuart, probably due to when she tried to help him once, while in France, over some trouble that resulted in him being detained by the authorities. The Queen/Council was more right and Mary was pushing for the marriage before he could get there. In the end he was locked out of Stirling Castle. When he did see the Scottish Queen it was too late. He wasn't sure why she had done it and admitted it to Elizabeth. This didn't stop Henry's mother (the Countess of Lennox) being placed in the Tower of London, for arranging the marriage. The Scots were far from pleased. The English ambassador, in his report to Queen Elizabeth, said, "Darnley would have no long life amongst these people."⁹¹

Darnley didn't, three years later he was dead. The question asked then and by historians since is "who killed him?"

There appear to be two schools of thought for the murderers, the Scots Queen with her associates and the Scotch Nobles. There are strong cases for both parties, in Mary's situation, she had fully discovered what sex was, with Henry, which might in his case, have been rough, however there's a slight problem, the way Henry died. It looks suspiciously like someone had arranged for the house at Kirk O' Field to be blown up when this man was dead already. He was found, laid out (neatly), under a tree, in a garden some distance from the remains of the house. Dressed only in a nightshirt and his body was said to be unmarked, which might mean he had been poisoned?⁹² Also found was the unmarked body of his valet, some clothes, a chair and a dagger. Cecil was sent a drawing of the scene as evidence of the murder, which has survived.

Why would anyone go to all this trouble of laying him out, ceremonially like, and then blow up the house? If they were going to blow up Darnley, whilst he was inside and woke him

up, why did they not wake others? There was only one survivor, from the blast, who was injured, several others were killed outright and why did they not just stab or shoot him and the valet?

So what did happen?

We can only speculate. I believe he wasn't murdered at all. Mary however makes herself look suspicious by her previous behaviour. For example when telling Henry of James' birth, she places great emphasis on that it WAS his child.⁹³ Maybe she was as surprised that it was indeed Henry's child. If this is the case, obviously she was having sex with at least one other man. The speech does imply there were lots of rumours going around that James' father wasn't Darnley. From what I can gather this seems not to have been the case, later this is very true, not at or around conception time. Randolph, an English diplomat, did hear gossip that Mary was having an affair as early as 1565. Who? All he knew was it had been a 'courtier'. Her speech also shows a great dislike for Henry, though it sounds a bit confused to me "his father has broken to me".⁹⁴ Maybe her English wasn't good? If she was plotting his death, she saw her own as well, as again emphasis is placed on James ONLY uniting England & Scotland. Sir William Stanley asking why not, where then she gives the reply quoted previously, pulled this up. I thus think she was having sex with at least one man (if not more) and had stopped with her husband. Just to clear up one thing, James is Henry Stuart's child, simply on the grounds that a portrait of Henry (aged 17) does match those (looks wise) of James as a child. Further to support that, James had no control of how the paintings were done at this age.

On the run up to Henry's death, we do know he was expecting Mary to come the very night he died, for she had been nursing him during an illness. This was so severe it kept him bed ridden

for ages. She in spite of this was with the Earl of Bothwell, who she was in love with, for she married him after the death of her husband. Let us suppose that Henry was still in love with Mary and felt betrayed by her affair, which we can assume he knew about. He may have told her she would face the consequences if she did not come that night. Mary might have ignored his threats or passed them off as idle words from a jealous husband. Darnley's threats were not against Mary, whom he loved, but against himself.

Suicide - poisoning himself - was not the thing a king should do. That valet may have thought that, when he found him dead in bed. He may have arranged an operation to cover the suicide up; with perhaps the sole survivors help, clearing his master's name. These servants all slept around the room Darnley was in, some near the door. The loyal valet taking his own life too, unable to go on without his master.⁹⁵ The view of suicide (for whatever reason) was not expressed at the time, because his death was perfect for the overthrowing of Mary, by her own people, and that's what they did.

The so-called murdered man may have been contemplating his own death (maybe his wife's as well) for sometime, as the gunpowder had been stored at the house on his command. There is even stronger evidence, that means he could no-way have escaped from the house, even if a party of assassins had woke him. That drawing, which Cecil was sent, proves that Darnley was incapable of walking! The body did have something on it, yet wasn't caused by a physical assault. Most pictures of this drawing make some marks on his legs appear like a stain, or a blot, perhaps even a censoring of the private parts,⁹⁶ at least that what I first thought. However on closer inspection, I recently discovered that on his upper right leg, on the inner side was a large ulcerated sore, about 30cm long and 15cm wide. There was

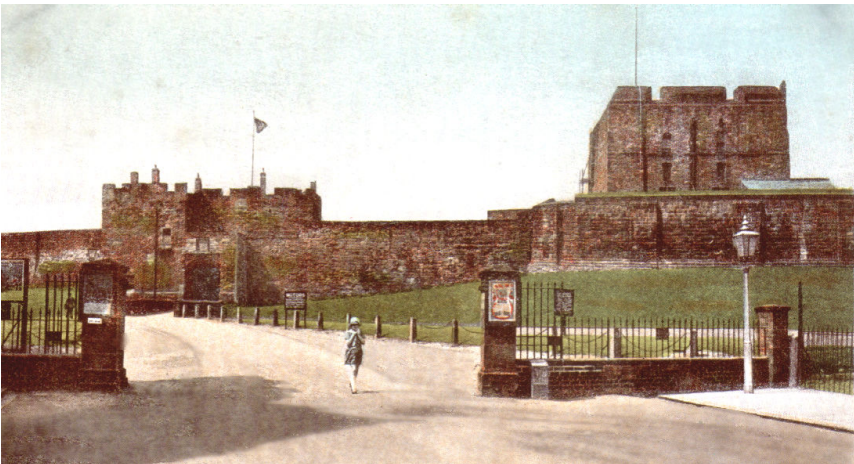
evidence of strips of skin still present, though it first appeared to me as though tissue had been lost, as though an animal had bitten it, this not being the case. On the left leg are two smaller ulcers, one above the knee about 8cm long, 6cm wide, the other below the joint about 6cm long.⁹⁷ We know he was suffering from syphilis and this disease does produce these sorts of ulcers. Still with these at this size and in those places, he must have been completely bed ridden still and in total agony if his calf muscles moved.⁹⁸ The medicines must have been all about his room to treat it and most would be toxic! We also know what they treated him with. In one of the letters Mary wrote to Bothwell she says Darnley's breath was that bad she couldn't go near him. And it was that way because the Mercury treatment he was having made his teeth rotten. It would have been on his mind to take his life for ages, with these kinds of sores and the immense pain, nether mind what he felt about Mary. Mercury would have done the trick.

Everyone at that time jumped to the same conclusion of murder, for different reasons. There was no medical examination, though forensic medicine didn't exist, that would have told them the truth. Elizabeth warned her cousin to find the murderers, for Mary's enemies would accuse the Scots Queen.⁹⁹ The English Queen also warned the Scottish Lords, 'not to deprive their Sovereign Lady of her regal estate.'¹⁰⁰

William Cecil, putting his legal knowledge to work, also wrote that Mary did not have to by law answer her subjects, although she did deny having Darnley killed, which was true, if my theory is right. Mary probably made up a story that she had spoken to a French man as she left Darnley that night. So even she thought he had been murdered. The Scottish Lords did deprive Stuart, forcing her to abdicate. Nicholas Throckmorton

(English ambassador) returning to Scotland again Said, "*The Scottish Lords intention is to establish a regency and keep Mary a prisoner*".¹⁰¹

Nicholas made it clear as well, that the Scotch Queen was quite reckless, doing nothing about those accused. The angry crowds of women alone got him worried. "I find she is in very great danger".¹⁰² The English were outraged, a former English lord killed, the Scots Queen imprisoned. Many believed the Scots Nobles had killed her husband, though some may have believed it was she. Sir William Cecil on the other hand had to be persuaded by the Queen. She was partially in agreement with the Spanish ambassador, who thought it was preposterous to treat a Queen this way, demanding that she did something to save the life of her cousin. Despite this the English did not give Mary much support for she also asked for French support as well as English.



Carlisle Castle from an old postcard. Had Mary Stuart had these should would have put on the back... "horrible place, can't wait to get back to Scotland".

Chapter 9

WHAT DO WE DO WITH MARY?

The England of Elizabeth I, were not on friendly terms with France. Several of the arguments went back to Henry the fifth, also they were not opposed to persecuting (and later massacring) Protestants and Mary Stuart, now an ex Queen of Scotland, did not mind who helped her. It clearly broke the Treaty of Edinburgh agreement as well. She doesn't seem to have understood her own position, and why help was kept at a low level from all sides. Elizabeth, who probably helped the most, did not want war with Scotland and wouldn't break any fragile treaties with anyone. The Pope in Rome (Pius V) was concerned about Mary's marriage to the Earl of Bothwell.¹⁰³ He was actually protestant and Mary agreed to that religion's style of ceremony. No wonder it upset the Pope! The story that she was forcefully taken by him and married off is totally ridiculous. Nicholas Throckmorton had spoken with her and said she was prepared to give up the crown and live as a "damsel" ¹⁰⁴ with Bothwell. Mary invented the rape story so as not cast suspicion on her involvement with the so-called murder of her husband. Now widely seen as being Bothwell's doing. Thus ipso-facto Mary's doing as well. Besides that, he was also still married to several other women! In addition she was in love with him and became pregnant, which she admitted to Throckmorton, refusing a divorce on the grounds she was seven weeks gone!¹⁰⁵ Mary

explained the rape story personally, in a letter to the English Queen. Elizabeth was still disgusted by it! Throckmorton also told the new regime that they (the English) did not accept the abdication or the regency. The French, also treading carefully policy wise, did the same as the English, in other words, as little as possible. They had little time for the new regime in Scotland and even their ambassador was attacked, loosing his goods. In spite of this, they were not altogether convinced that Mary had been a good monarch, quite possibly gave some thought to her being a real problem, for them. For she was sent to make sure Scotland remained a loyal ally to France.

Mary escaped from her Scottish prison, much to the new Regent's surprise¹⁰⁶ (her half-brother James Stuart, the Earl of Moray).¹⁰⁷ This she did by proposing marriage again! Her 'loyal' people (the Seton & Hamilton's) joined up with her; she once again talked of marrying. This time a Hamilton! She quickly decided not to discuss the issue in the Scottish Parliament, through legal and lawful means and they decided to do battle with Moray's forces at Langside in Glasgow. At the battle, loyalty was not obvious. Mary's general was Moray's brother in law. The ramshackle army deserted or argued and despite having greater numbers and Mary riding down to urge them forward - they fled.

Mary, still not giving up, never excepting defeat, needed an army, so she escaped to England, setting off from what would become known as Port Mary, on a perilous journey across the Solway Firth which took 14 hours. She landed at Workington on the 16th of May 1568. She actually (formally by letter) requested to go to England, when safe in Scotland, seeking the protection of Elizabeth, which to all intent and purpose would make her

appear as confined as the Scottish people had kept her. Her people tried to talk her into going to France instead. But Mary had other ideas.

Mary got the protection! Next day the English arrived, four hundred men strong, headed by Richard Lowther, to escort Mary to Carlisle. Something fishy was up because one of the Queen's supporters had already notified Henry Curwen, of Workington Hall, that Mary intended to marry his son and was thus coming! Henry notified Lord Scrope, but as he was in London, Richard took action. At Carlisle she was greeted by Sir Francis Knollys, sent by Royal authority, and Lord Scrope, with the message of 'his Majesty's grief of mind, at the many mishaps of the Scotch Queen.'¹⁰⁸

There's one thing in asking to go to another country, which she, Mary did in the letter, then there's another thing just turning up there. Elizabeth could have refused to accept her; she had previously not allowed her to set foot in England, even when she first asked to pass through on her way to Scotland. Mary once again broke the rules about how monarchs behave. She was here now, so hearing how she had escaped from Scotland with nothing but the clothes on her back, the English Queen sent horse loads and cartloads of clothes, plus other items. She could hardly tell her to get back in the boat and go back! Knollys was dispatched to arrange security for the Queen of Scots, but can't resist sending back to the court what appear to be his opinions, more often than not. His opinions on the Queen are interesting. He has only one word for Mary that can be constructed as complimentary, that is— pleasant! The rest, though not bordering on hate, doesn't put her in a good light. I can't help thinking she was a very 'touchy' woman and maybe made a pass at him. It wouldn't have been the first time! He says of her, "Mary is bold,

speaks too much and is too familiar.” No doubt he came to this conclusion after she invited him to her bedroom, which (believe it or not) she did!

To sum Elizabeth’s envoy up, from one of his letters, would be to say that the thing wanted was victory at whatever cost.¹⁰⁹ All these point out her unreasonable nature and as for the clothes, he reckons this Scots woman is so ungrateful, and wouldn’t even offer what we might call a tip for the carriers, even though she had plenty of money by then. Sir Francis might have not been the wisest of choice, for his religion is totally the reverse of Stuart’s, though we shall see that is only a mute point with her, especially if she did make advances towards him. Most people in England did not like a Scottish/French Queen, even an ex one, hence the security. Even Catholics had little time for her, for the word was out that she had killed her husband, this left only the radicals, though there were quiet a few of them. It would have suited the Scots, if she had died whilst in England, for they could blame the English. Mary later tends to become oblivious to this considerable danger she was in, forgetting what she asked for, but Elizabeth knew and remembers. Part of the security arrangements for this Ex Queen; were to transfer her to Bolton Castle. This was no easy task for now over 30 servants, from Scotland, had joined Mary. An entire wagon train was needed, horses and carts of new belongings plus old (three trunk loads, brought by her friends because Mary poured scorn on the clothes), all the people and troops. The entire lot headed for the castle at Bolton, it must have been one hell of a sight, passing through the beautiful Yorkshire Dales scenery.

Elizabeth sent word to Mary there was to be a conference between the English, Scots and Mary’s people at York on the 30th of September. She wasn’t to attend because it wasn’t a trial; even so she complained insisting to everyone that SHE was on

trial. When asked about it she even had great rages. She finally agreed after Elizabeth promised to put her back on the Scottish Throne, with conditions, being that Mary would stop being Catholic, leave the people who kicked her off the throne alone, end the connection with France. Mary agreed to the lot! The whole purpose of this conference was to find out why Mary had been deposed and why or how Darnley had died. With that out of the way Mary could then put her case to Elizabeth in person. Mary wanted to put her case in person, regardless. At this conference, representing Mary were four of her lords, one bishop and one abbot. The Scots had two earls, one lord, an abbot, and a bishop. The English had eight lords; among them were Cecil, Leicester and Bacon.

James, Earl of Moray, on the Scots side, brought a casket¹¹⁰ that contained letters, which if anything proved the Queen was having an affair with Bothwell, while Darnley was alive. She had even written some of them while she was nursing her now dead husband. Those expressed love for Bothwell and hatred for Darnley. Mary, after been told about them by her representatives, said they were forged; yet it's not clear if she saw them personally. If she did, then she would not admit to writing them. However they are only love letters, they don't convict her of murder. Though many historians think they do. While others believe they are all rubbish, however the originals have gone missing, which means that no one can prove anything! Her own people clearly could not defend her as they were not there at these events, where she was conceivably writing the letters or taking part in them. The letters horrified the Duke of Norfolk, who was at York, as one of the English Lords and was the Chairman. But Maitland implied/made out they were forged. So the English lords were soon in favour of Mary, seeing how two

faced these Scots were. One lord, the Earl of Sussex points out that, “The Scotch Queen (should) be detained by one means or another”.¹¹¹

Sussex, after the York conference was over, also talked about it, perhaps in regards Darnley’s death? “*The Earl of Moray speaks of accidents*”.¹¹²

Sussex’s draws the conclusion that the further away from Scotland Mary is, the better she would be. He certainly did not believe that Mary had killed her husband. Mary never accepted that the English Lords might have believed her. They might have done that from the beginning, thinking that it was highly unlikely that a Queen would kill her husband. Unlike Elizabeth she wouldn’t take advice. Three years later, Cecil had to write to Mary, pointing out that she dissolved the York conference, on the 15th of December 1568.¹¹³ Apparently the conference had no effect, because Mary’s people were prevented, according to Cecil, from examining her second husband’s murder. However the question remains by whom? Perhaps by Mary herself, for if she suspected that Bothwell had done the deed, because if I am right, then she knew that she had not done it. This implies two things as well. That both she and the new husband had discussed the possibility of having Henry murdered. The other being she knew none of the Scottish Lords had carried out the task, because she would have let them take the blame. Officially she tried to put the blame on Maitland. What’s more another concern of Cecil, was Mary’s bishop (the Bishop of Ross) and one of her lords, had attempted to free her - thus putting Mary in danger, plus without the Monarch’s permission. How they did this is not clear. One possibility is that they tried to negotiate her release, which seems unlikely, or they made a pact with the other Scottish faction to get her out by force, stranger still!

Cecil met the Bishop of Ross, John Leslie, at York. Clearly

the driving force of the English lords was Cecil, though he was considered to controversial to be the chairman. Ross wrote to Mary's first custodian asking him to put in a good word with William Cecil, for Ross believed Cecil had an ill opinion of him. Ross had a reputation of not keeping his mouth shut. Cecil's opinion may have been that John Leslie was a double agent for the Scots, particularly if he tried to talk with them about her release. He is suspicious anyway, because Knollys thinks he's a Protestant, (and he should know, for he was one of the strongest in the court) which is odd because he is supposed to be a Catholic bishop.¹¹⁴

The York conference made it clear, to the English that forcible putting Mary back on the Scottish throne, was out of the question. The Scots did not want her back and even if any them did not believe she was a murderess, they were giving lots of excuses to keep her in England, presumably to let the English take the blame for her death. This they would have thought was most likely for some reason or other, but mostly because of the murder, as they lived in a different world. Not in Elizabeth's! The message Elizabeth got, or the opinion she held, was keep the Scots woman safe and don't allow her to roam. And yet Elizabeth did not need to suss out what to do with the former Scottish Queen. Mary requested herself, before she even left Scotland, to be placed in protective custody, as we would now call it. In the same way as a witness would be protected in a modern day drug or murder trail, not a prisoner.¹¹⁵ She therefore, wasn't going to be executed. As she was of Royal Blood, she was to be treated as such. Remember they considered her to be still the rightful monarch of Scotland. They had said already that they didn't except the forced abdication. The English Queen would honour the request from a very dishonourable woman. Mary had other ideas, quickly forgetting her request, seeing

herself as a prisoner, treated badly, kept in miserable poor accommodation, cut off from the world. Just like about every historian since her death, sees her as, except myself! She didn't want to be further away from Scotland too! To her the protection was a red herring, to get her to England and fight her way back to Scotland. Like some power crazy politician, given an army, she intended to go back. No one was any the wiser about who killed Darnley, from the conference. Mary still thought the English wanted to put her on trial for his death. Stuart could have told Elizabeth anything to save her neck, yet she didn't need to, for she was never in danger from the Queen. The feeling was not mutual.



George Talbot and his wife were so loyal to the Queen, that when their 'love marriage' started to break, she tried to get them back together. Though George was loyal to the Queen, his feelings for a servant, made him disloyal to his wife.

Chapter 10

TALBOT'S TASK

Mary Stuart's constant moans drove Sir Francis Knollys up the wall, for when her charms failed to entice him she resorted to nagging him. He wrote several times to Queen Elizabeth to end his connection with her, that final straw came when his wife died. Mary had no sympathy for the man, for if that got a new man to take over, she would consider it good news. She thus looks for weakness in people and turned it on them. The advantage to her would bring someone who maybe her charms would work on. Elizabeth was full of sympathy for the sad official, but thus had a problem. She needed a loyal court member who had estates and houses in the North of England, to take over from him and keep this woman safe. Another issue that careful reading of Sir Francis messages, or any other reports, was clearly given a great deal of thought by Elizabeth and Cecil, was unmistakably, that a single man was out of the question. George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, recently married and everyone thought it was a love match, not just a property deal, was such a man. Though even he is warned about Mary's charm offensive!

Rumours had been circulating for sometime that Knollys was temporary and George, from his letters to his wife Bess, reckoned he stood a good chance of getting the task. They had no idea that it was Sir Francis pressing to get out of the service. The Talbot's were perfect for looking after a queen, for his wife was second in wealth to Elizabeth herself. Most of her wealth seems

to have come from previous husbands, who all died leaving her the lot! Talbot wasn't without a penny too! George was summoned to court, but he wasn't told why.

Shyness seems to have affected the Queen's judgment of people, resulting in a like of them, but distrusted them. This made her decision-making powers slow; she also weighed up discussions slowing things down further. In reality most of her court could be trusted; they were her relatives, ex servants and just friends from her days as Princess Elizabeth, sort of an Elizabethan club. Nonetheless her commands often took ages to arrive at.

George Talbot was fed up. He was at Hampton Court ages and he was missing his wife, who as already stated, he was very much in love with. His wife sent him venison puddings while he waited, and George lost 100 pounds gambling in the Privy Chamber. No doubt to the Queen, who would have been an expert, from her childhood sitting around waiting for things to happen. "*Then one Monday,*" he told his wife, "*I saw her Majesty in the palace garden*". His impatience now at breaking point, he approached her and said, "*I hope you realise that my tenants in Bolsover are clamouring after me in my absence*". The Queen knew all right, but she told him, "*I want you to know, I trust you as few I do*".¹¹⁶

George was taken a back; he must have been, for he did not ask the Queen what she wanted him for. Of course you don't ask that from a Monarch anyway! He says, in the letter, to his wife describing the incident, "I doubt it is the Scots' Queen's custody".¹¹⁷

So Talbot waited and on December 13th 1568, he wrote to Bess, "Now it is certain the Scots Queen comes to Tutbury to my charge. In what order I cannot ascertain you".¹¹⁸

A French ambassador, in a memo dated 10th January 1569, said Shrewsbury had to be persuaded by ‘great people’ to take the charge of the Scots Queen, which on the face of it seems unlikely. We don’t know if Knollys was happy at the news of Shrewsbury’s take-over. It would be hard to believe he wasn’t, because when he is informed he was to take Mary to Tutbury Castle, he wrote back to his own Queen and Cecil. He states that after he’s arrived at Tutbury, he wanted to be discharged and if was not, he would come to the court, regardless of what happened to him!¹¹⁹

Meanwhile George, who incidentally was a good friend of Cecil, had written (in a Sheffield dialect) to Secretary Cecil a comprehensive questionnaire on how he was to treat Mary. After reading it, which was no easy task, for George couldn’t spell for nuts, Cecil wrote a similar answer sheet back, telling him to treat her with great care and like a Queen, but not letting her to practice to escape. Being an ex Queen, she had servants, however it was clearly thought many were really not needed and thus (though not stated) a security risk, as well as an extra cost on the much depleted treasury. Shrewsbury was told to reduce the number of her servants, by Cecil. He also requested that Sir Francis stayed on to instruct him on how to treat Mary, so George clearly got no reports about Sir Francis and he was kept in the dark about George taking over. Then the Earl, after receiving the instructions, set off for Tutbury. Her first custodian, at Bolton, read Mary a letter from his Queen saying ‘that as Mary disliked Bolton Castle, she was to be escorted by Sir Francis Knollys and Lord Scrope to a better place.’ Scrope clearly didn’t want the task of looking after her either! Then they set off to join up with Talbot at Tutbury. The journey didn’t please Knollys one bit, “This *depressing* service,”¹²⁰ he told

Cecil in a letter to London, on January 28th 1569, as they escorted Mary to what would become the regular residence for her.

On the 4th of February Mary arrived there and George took over officially. Being told to wait at Tutbury, he most likely rode out to see them as soon as news of the party reached him. Fearing that Marian party would get ambushed, he broke his first order. A new French ambassador, La Moth, also reported to France, “Mary will be quiet safe in Shrewsbury’s hands”.¹²¹ So nobody was worried about this infraction.

We do not know what George’s first impression of Mary was. We do know she was attractive, six feet tall, could speak English, and had hair of many colours. She did have the best hairdresser (Mary Seaton) then. I also believe Mary was personality wise, far from dumb, ambitious and something else. Quite bonkers! This might have been apparent to George, when they saw Mary’s convoy. That might be how it looked too! For her future and past actions could give us a clue to what it looked like from Talbot’s perspective. Mary was, I believe, most certainly leading the column. Looking like she was riding into battle, highly enthusiastic, which was quite unlike the rest of the party, Lord Scrope, behind her trying to keep up. Sir Francis, either not in sight (hidden in a cart) or looking dejected on horse, maybe trailing at the back. Mary’s servants were riding in style, in coaches and so forth. The escort, well most were miffed at their Lords and masters, moaning and complaining! Trained troops being hard to find since there had been little fighting, with England being quite peaceful, even abroad!

Mary settled in at Tutbury, yet what did she make of George? Not a lot at this stage, she would have difficulty with his Sheffield accent, which can be seen in his letters. She next heard from Elizabeth on the 31st March. The Scots wanted her back, to

imprison her and the people helping them were Mary's and her own son! Of course she didn't believe it and sent one of her servants to Scotland to find out. Tight border control meant the servant took longer than expected. Mary complained to Cecil. He told her he had given no order to stop servants. This was most likely true, though Mary never, perhaps rarely, accepted the explanations she was offered. The servant's return brought tears to Mary's eyes, because what the Queen had said was all true. The Bishop of Ross went to the court in London. In his letter back, to his Queen, he comments that the whole court was in support of her than ever before.¹²² The message contained in that letter cut no ice with her. She had already complained about Tutbury, saying it wasn't good enough for a 'person of quality.' Knollys, before he left, made it quite clear she had plenty of rooms at the castle. One of the French diplomats had heard it was a beautiful place. Mary maintains it was exposed, yet the main building has a high stone wall, she even concedes that the chief building is low in the ground. She also says she was given "two little miserable rooms" and finishes with claiming she personally made curtains and tapestries to keep out the cold. Then we are told there's no sunshine, and everything gets covered in damp.¹²³

Academics read this letter and therefore made the castle out to be rubbish and in a bad state of repair when she moved in. Mary says her part was made of plaster and wood and cracked & broken. Trouble is that Mary tells fibs, as we have seen with Darnley's death. She might use information that was most likely old. You don't tend to get a great deal of sunshine in Staffordshire around February, which sort of explains why it was so dam cold! Why there was a lot of draft too. Near where I lived is the 1574 dated Turret House. It has a slight damp problem, yet the people who look after the building were told by

an expert from English Heritage that if the fires where lit then this problem should correct itself.¹²⁴ Okay what's this got to do with Tutbury? Simple the Castle hadn't been fully in use till Mary moved in. Thus the walls might well have damp, plus the mould growing over everything was due to the warming of the building from a cold start. It would soon vanish, maybe why this aspect of her moaning goes after a while.

'Small' rooms indeed! Sir Ralph Sadler tells us that Mary's servants were housed in a tower of 4 stories, which was 39 by 24 feet per room; these correspond with measurements of the ruins today.¹²⁵ I hardly think that Mary's rooms were smaller and the building she was housed had two floors, being approximately 180 feet long by 40 feet wide. It also housed the state chamber 61 by 29 foot for a start. Nobody said she had to stay in her rooms either, which were on the second floor. The senior staff of the Scotch Queen all had at least a room to themselves. In that tower, the ground floor was storage, floors two and three had Gilbert Curle and Mary's doctor, with the chief cook right at the top.¹²⁶ Meanwhile below Mary's rooms on the first floor saw Sir James Melville, plus her surgeon on hand. If she was ill she needed only pop down stairs to her personal apothecary and get pills and lotions from him. Only the foundations of this building will be there now. I could not find any evidence from archaeology to prove that this building was even made of the stuff, Mary writes about. That is maybe due to the fact none may have been done, or as I found out most of the archaeologists prefer to keep things to themselves and spend huge amounts of money writing complicated reports based on silly theories. Be that as it may, Mary's comments were perhaps second hand. As the plasterwork and woodwork were repaired before she got there. Maybe George told her, by way of comparison, when she moaned about the place being damp/mouldy to him. Many times

I have heard Sheffield people say “You should have seen it” always followed by a fixed time period, say a week, month, and so on.

So that Mary is quick with her hands! Making tapestries in a about a month, or till she got her first letter out. Some historians might believe then she could also print 2000 books, make the four poster bed she slept in (one of 4), the eight gold cushions several gold decorated stools as well. Then again she could always have travelled to Turkey for the 16 carpets she stood on, weaved some Holland cloth for the sheets on the bed. Money being no problem to her, as her own servants calculated her daily living expenses at five pounds (£5,000 in today’s money about).¹²⁷

Seriously, all these items were dispatched to the castle from Elizabeth, care of Rafe Rowlandson. His job, in the English Queen’s entourage, was to make certain all the houses, castles were fitted out before the Queen got to them, on her jaunts around the country. Other duties included costume parties and feasts. Every item was transported with great care, very often wrapped and lined with canvas to prevent any damage. Rafe had to raid various palaces to find what was ordered for the Scots Queen. He even took from the Tower of London, which was used sometimes as a palace. This was largely due to the Castle of Tutbury being part of the Crown Estate. Talbot had used it as presumably as a hunting lodge, having it only on lease. Some of the more interesting things sent were three chairs that had gold & crimson cloth. Chairs are very rare in the 16th Century. Funnily enough the tapestries depicted passion, Hercules, plus the story of ladies! Did someone have a sense of humour in the court; well was Hercules meant to be Bothwell? They also perhaps thought she would get bored, sending all those books. When it would get

warmer, for her, Rafe had got his hands on a 1000 piece Croquet set, with the two hammers needed to play it.¹²⁸ They all arrived long before Mary set foot in the place.

On the drains being poor, I might have to agree with her. Seeing as most of the castle was built a hundred years before Stuart lived there. As she says though, they were at least emptied every Saturday!

Nonetheless, palace or shit house, Mary got her way and in April she was at Wingfield Manor with 240 people, many of them being hers.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, troubled with his health, on the advice of his doctor, went to the wells at Buxton. Elizabeth was not pleased, especially as she thought George had left Mary improperly attended. He hadn't, but had not been authorised to go by the Queen. As it happens he often ignored rules concerning her, if she sweet-talked around or if he was just soft with her can't be established, though many historians have tried. He could have been just not use to treating royalty, for he makes plenty of mistakes. The Earl had to hope that in this case the Queen wouldn't be offended with him. It seems she wasn't really, as it turned out, and it soon blew over. Mary perhaps caused it, or someone she knew trying to get George into trouble. There was also plenty in the Royal Court who had digs at George and his wife. These people kept making suggestions, which forced the Queen to write. The Queen couldn't tell George that, so Cecil told him. Some of the orders Talbot received clearly indicate he took the instructions about treating her like a Queen too literally! Previous moves had been undertaken with pomp and style, which went well above what was needed. Talbot was told to tone them down, for the next move. By September there was more trouble that cancelled that planned move to Sheffield.

Thomas Howard (33), 4th Duke of Norfolk, who according to

one biographer spent most of his time at court looking good, but not doing much, decided to do something.¹²⁹ With the intention of giving Mary free liberty of England, using a secret marriage plan, he eventually talked to Queen Elizabeth.¹³⁰ He stormed out of the court, when it didn't go down well. Thomas even left for his house in Norfolk, all without permission from the Queen, this seen as insult by Cecil, if not by the Queen. Thomas told the Queen that his estates in England were worth as much as the whole of Scotland therefore was content with being just the Duke. Though he might be telling the truth about his wealth, he was certainly lying about being just a Duke! Shortly after, Shrewsbury became ill. The court fearing an escape attempt, from Wingfield, ordered Mary back to Tutbury, which was more secure. There the Earls of Huntingdon and Hereford joined the ill Shrewsbury, as back up. Norfolk's leaving was serious enough to have him arrested and sent to the Tower. More details of why he did this will follow in the next chapter. On the 25th of September 1569, the Earls were even ordered to search a room, where Mary was present, for letters connected with the Duke. She complained to the Queen about men with pistols. This amazed the Earls, who said, "*some of the guard had come in with pistols and they told them to stop and lay them aside, which she knows!*"¹³¹



The Duke of Norfolk is credited with being Catholic and was no such thing. Mary Stuart was of that religion, when it was to her advantage. Her plans to get married to him would see them both losing their heads eventually.



Walsingham (left) in a recent film, gets the credit for catching Norfolk. He is also credited for finishing Mary off. When in both instances it was William Cecil, who brought them to justice.

Chapter 11

TROUBLESOME EX QUEEN

In November, the Earls of Shrewsbury, Huntingdon and Hereford brought in one hundred extra men. A large force of men, lead by the Earl of Northumberland, moved quickly towards York, the evidence the English had seems to suggest they were after Mary Stuart, the question is why? Was it to kill or to free her? Either way no chances were being taken by the English. Some of the facts were known, however they couldn't be certain. An order was issued to move Mary south and she reached Coventry, where she stayed in the Black Bull inn, which pleased neither Mary nor Elizabeth for very different reasons. Mary's being it was too small, Elizabeth on the grounds that it wasn't secure enough. The only place that could be considered as defensible was the castle of Coventry. This was a mess, not being used for many years. Stuart had another reason for not moving.

Antonia Fraser states that Mary was not in favour of this rebellion. Fraser then creates a layer of 'white-wash' over her part in it. Maintaining Stuart did not want the slaughter of innocent people. Ignoring and failing to take into account Mary's desire to go to Scotland at the head of someone's army, Antonia backs up her faulty arguments with a quote from the Bishop of Ross, who stated that Mary wrote to the Earl of Northumberland to stop the attack.¹³² Nonetheless when did Ross start telling the truth!

At the end of the day, this whole episode was due in the

major part to Stuart, in the first place. The best trick she had up her sleeve, when it came to men, was a good way of getting just what she wanted. As she was beautiful, it gave it and her added advantage, so she used it regularly. All it was really was an offer to marry. With Mary it was like giving her an army. Whether she meant to tie the knot, with all she asked, doesn't matter, I doubt it anyway. It worked nevertheless, in most cases. At the York conference she even did it by proxy. Stuart got her people (the Bishop of Ross, I think) to pass the message to the Chairman, Thomas Howard (Fourth Duke of Norfolk) that she wanted to marry him. Strange thing when you think about, to ask the Chairman of the inquiry into your second husband's death, to marry you! Oddly, most historians don't seem to have picked this up, thinking it is normal. Perhaps it happens a lot to academics and is quite normal to them. I think it smells fishy!

It turned poor Norfolk's head; it turns his head that much his head would come off! He only needed Elizabeth's consent and he was well on his way to becoming King. Guess what, Mary wanted and insisted he got the consent first! For if the Queen agreed, it got Mary out of the wretched custody, so it benefited Stuart. She would have been in for a shock, had she had seen him. For someone told her later that he had 'so foul a face'. I doubt that would have mattered to her. His status did, as he was the only duke in England, at that time. They plied each other with letters and gifts. Norfolk sent her a large diamond and Mary sent him a pillow. Eh! Cheapskate or what!

Sir William Cecil advised the Queen against the marriage of Mary to anyone. The Queen didn't need this advice, as she was well aware of the implications of such marriages and the threat to her life. The trouble was that many of her subjects saw a different side to this. In that, Elizabeth was not being reasonable. Being that some believed that in certain circumstances, someone

could tie the knot and it didn't have to be a threat to her. So after many months of rumours flying around that Thomas would be able to marry the Queen of Scots, some of her subjects weren't going to take the news well that they couldn't get married.

It wasn't the only thing that Elizabeth wasn't being reasonable on. Another issue brought the Northern earls to blows with Southern England. The Act of Uniformity of 1559 caused a north-south divide. Like her father, Elizabeth believed she was an absolute monarch. In this case it was her major flaw. She couldn't expect her Kingdom was split and her subjects too, so she forced down the throats of those in the North of England, the Protestant Prayer Book. The Northern subjects thought that it was William Cecil who had made the Queen turn from the old faith and therefore didn't hold her to blame. Sadly they were wrong, for the Queen wanted it as much as her Lords did. Thus some of the north side latched on to the plan by the Duke of Norfolk, which they assumed it was by, for his marriage to Catholic Mary Stuart. This they assumed again was because Norfolk was a 'closet' Catholic. Once done the country would return to Catholicism somehow or maybe later. Few thought Elizabeth would last long as Queen, whilst others in the North, jumped in on the grounds of loyalty to Mary Stuart alone. Not many I think! Another group was loyal just to the Duke and a few to the whole cause.¹³³ Most never thought that the Duke wouldn't change his religion and did not give a monkeys if he didn't. One of them Charles Neville (Westmorland) was convinced he would, for the reason that he was married to Thomas Howard's sister.

Most historians have also assumed Norfolk did what he did for the Catholic religion. Though they know he was Protestant, it's neatly brushed aside, while he waits to go on the path they set out for him. Thomas' religious beliefs might have been that

he was quite happy to be of the new religion. Moreover he did not need to change faiths, for the reason he had been led to believe Mary was going to change hers, or even already had! Mary doesn't appear to have asked him to change to the old religion, as far as I can tell. The evidence is there for her desire at times to switch. For instance at Bolton Castle, crowds of Catholics came to see her and she told them she was still Catholic. Then to Sir Francis Knollys, a wink-nudge-nudge (if you like, she said it) that she was of the new religion. Apparently playing them off, one against the other, telling Spain/ France she hadn't changed, the English and Scots she had. Strange to think she once told Nicholas Throckmorton, during her time in France, that being unchanging was a trademark for monarchs, she was not the type who changes her religion every year, or at all.¹³⁴

Norfolk was serious enough to try to arrange the divorce from Bothwell, whom Mary was still married to. Next he discussed with the Privy Council (of Elizabeth) a scheme to give Mary the thing she wanted, above all, from the Queen. This being the chance to succeed to the Crown of England, without challengers, which Mary oh so desired. All she had to do in return was put the English form of the Protestant religion in Scotland, which would be returned to her, oh yes and marry Thomas Howard. He raised this contentious issue when Elizabeth wasn't in attendance. Making sure she got kept in the dark, knowing nothing yet. Also Cecil wasn't there either; and while the cats away... the Council passed it. Others, not necessarily on the Queen's Council, wanted the scheme to achieve other things. Leonard Dacre was only interested, because the Civil Courts had not granted him the Dacre Barony.¹³⁵ Therefore he wanted the Courts changed. Both the Earl of Arundel and Lord Lumley saw it as Catholic plan and thought Thomas intended to switch his religious convictions.

The major predicament for the scheme is that the Duke could not think of a way to convince Elizabeth of the rationality of the idea. This resulted in no discussion from the start, rather like trying to force her to agree to it, surely a massive error in judgement on his part. As Robert Dudley (member of the Council) got on best with the Queen, Thomas thought he should breech the idea, seeing how she stood. In this conversation on: if Mary Stuart were to marry someone of this realm and be named next in line, Robert made a reference that Elizabeth wasn't going to marry at all. This didn't seat to well with the Queen; though she knew well she had told them she was happy to die a virgin, you can tell she didn't think they should use these words against her. This infuriated her, but she probably bottled up most of her anger. So the Queen told him that she would be in the Tower within months of the marriage happening.

Woops! That had blown it, so Elizabeth in a roundabout sort of way tried to chat to Thomas to see if he given any thought about remarrying after the death of his wife, now that a decent time had expired. Thomas was too scared to take the bait, perhaps he thought she was thinking of marrying him? I think this reminded Elizabeth of her younger days. When those in London had been spreading rumours around about her marrying Thomas Seymour, which were not true. Perhaps the tittle-tattle about this Thomas was false as well, so best be on the safe side and ask, she would have thought. She was then at Richmond Palace and Thomas had just come up river from business in London. Elizabeth gave instructions to him to meet him in the gardens. She seems to prefer to chat in the less formal atmosphere of them, to her courtiers about different matters. Before I bring up what they discussed, it is worth pointing out that this (being in the gardens) was meant to perhaps relax the Duke. He had no ill intent yet to the Queen and was petrified

stiff of her. Thomas never made any offer to marry Elizabeth, which I know of, which is very strange. How scary was the Queen? Not that much, I imagine, she wouldn't be like the type of person who would bite your head off. I really don't think it was her fault, rather like some high-powered women today; she was just intimidating to some. I can visualize Norfolk jumping out of his skin, if she even said anything nice to him. It certainly shows in the reported conversation she had with him. This is why I assume Norfolk was glad when Robert said he would bring it up.

First after the initial greetings, she asked him what the topic of conversation was in London. This puzzled Thomas and he couldn't understand why the Queen was so interested in this thing, which if anyone brought up in court she'd cast scorn on. Flouted in this attempt, she got nearly right to the point, plainly she did keep up with that London gossip though dismissed it when she knew the truth. "You come from London and can tell no news of a marriage" said Elizabeth to Thomas.¹³⁶

He clamed up completely, Elizabeth had this effect on the males of her court, as in George Talbot's case. Men's legs and tongues turn to jelly! To Elizabeth it made Norfolk look dodgy. Everything after this chat, to Thomas, then went wrong and Cecil and the Queen told him, that Mary wasn't going to change for anybody. Thomas was very scared and left for his home in Norfolk. Reports of the Northern Rising spread to the court and the Spanish Ambassador knew what was afoot. For he had been given information that Mary had sent word to Thomas, to be brave and not to fear what was about to happen. This means she was well into what the Northern Earls were doing. The Earl of Huntingdon also mentions to the court that Mary was told everything and he questions this himself. Stuart however maintains she's told nothing. Because Norfolk wasn't daft he

knew the court might question him too much about this rising and went back to get away from it. Him doing this created greater tension, but he was busy now thinking that if it's not stopped it will ruin his chance of ever being a King. So he wrote to the Seventh Earl of Northumberland - Thomas Percy and told them to call a halt to their plans. It was too late, when the Earl of Westmorland found out that Norfolk was chickening out, he was furious and took charge, as Northumberland was going chicken as well. Reports of the manpower of this force vary from 4,000 to 8,000 men. The English got messages at first that the rising was not on, and then only small bands of men were taking part. Then they got a shock by the 15th of November Durham had fallen into Westmorland's hands. The Earl of Sussex from his base in York couldn't raise enough troops to do anything about the force, which would soon be bearing down on him. Therefore he had to wait for the reinforcement by Lord Clinton and his men, coming up from the South. Strangely the rebels had started to retreat before this. Chased back up north they ended up being sheltered by Scottish families. The Scots didn't like Catholics either and arrested some, which they then traded back to the English, one of them was the Earl of Northumberland and he was executed at York. Westmorland escaped to the Netherlands, where he lived on a meagre pension, from Philip of Spain, but caused no more trouble to the English.

The Northern part of England afterwards, was back under the control of the Crown. Eight hundred bodies were reported to have been seen dangling from trees, the results from the local courts of justice that were set up in the towns and villages of the North.

On December 24th 1568/9, Shrewsbury was informed that he could return to Tutbury with the ex Queen of Scots. The two Earls were discharged when the English army had routed the

rebel force. Huntingdon informed Cecil, that Mary wanted to see the Queen so much; she said she would become a humble courtier at Windsor.¹³⁷ The Queen never did see the Scots Queen, the only reason we know of was she thought it would be in her words ‘improper’ for them to meet. If they ever would have met it would have been in Nottingham or Sheffield.¹³⁸ Another one of those codes of conducts thing she was fond of, for members of the aristocracy.

Mary got some good news for once, if you call the death of her half-brother that. Her enemy James Stuart, Earl of Moray, was assassinated in Scotland. This just proves how volatile Scotland was then. Also how dangerous it would have been for her, for it seems very unlikely he was killed by any of Mary’s people. Tutbury, by May of 1570, was in a terrible state. Shrewsbury wrote (and Mary did) to the Queen. Although she had grounds for complaint this time, it was made worse by her bathing in wine.¹³⁹ The place probably smelt like a vat, for Shrewsbury said two tons¹⁴⁰ a month of wine, had not been enough for her in January. Indeed the local people also felt the pinch as wood was being taken for fuel to keep Mary warm during the winter, plus their carts and wagons were needed for her summer jaunts. They were also growing very hostile as well. Sickness began to hit the household, suggestions of staying at Nottingham Castle, were ruled out by Elizabeth. After saying that Mary was sick, George was told they could move when he thought fit. They left for Chatsworth in Derbyshire, now the home of the Devonshire’s, on the 24th of May, the house being offered twice (to the Royal Court) as suitable as a base by Talbot.

Mary was told the English had destroyed 500 border towns to support Mary’s cause. Her response: “I hope other princes will have (better) care of *me* and *my* country”.¹⁴¹ If that’s not flying

in the wind of adversity! She openly declares that plots were on the go to put another ruler on the throne of England, in the statement. She can clearly get her hands on the latest information, contrary to what she says later.

Meanwhile in London, the Queen and her Secretary of State were working on a treaty to put the Scots woman back on the Scottish throne. With full court approval, it was signed and dated 7th of May 1570.

Many recent historians have corrected this document's spelling, in places, which gives it a new meaning, namely an attempt by the Queen to make Mary give up her claim to the English throne. This contradicts Elizabeth's attitude to the heir question, given earlier. These are the main points, none corrected form:

‘Renueyng (*Renewing*)¹⁴² of the Title.

1. For the security of the Prince of Scotland, that he may be delivered.
2. No strangers enter into Scotland.
3. A league between England and Scotland.
4. The rebels to be (a)restored.
5. Hostages of Scotland - The Queen (Mary's) nomination.
6. Castles for the Queen (Mary) delivered.’

I have numbered these and added the Mary (in brackets). This I have done to prevent confusion between the two Queens. The court did credit her with the title, even though technically she was no longer of that status. The document was drafted by Cecil, who refers to the ‘Queen Majesty’ or ‘Majesty’ when talking about Elizabeth. Besides that what would the English Queen want with Scottish castles and hostages? However she was concerned about the safety of Mary's son James, that the French or Spain might invade, or at least have a growing presence there.

Mary was optimistic, for it would look marvellous to anyone,

who wasn't really Scottish anymore. Elizabeth wrote (August) to the Earl of Shrewsbury, saying the Scots caused the delays to the treaty. It was a bit one sided for them! In the same month there was another freedom bid (escape) from Chatsworth, which failed. Also the Duke of Norfolk was released. Queen Elizabeth then wrote to Mary direct.

She points out; *"The reason for my long silence could be given, but would dwell on my acts of kindness and your ungrateful return of them"*. She then writes, "You owed the preservation of your life to me and you have requited the obligation by stirring up treason among my servants".

The Queen then tells Mary she is sending two counsellors to try to come to some agreement, in the hope of 'blotting out' Mary's past. *"I could laugh in my sleeve at threats of the King of France. I hope to God, never to be reminded of your past conduct towards me, for it would be most pleasing to me, God knows"* said Elizabeth.¹⁴³

If you think this is the Queen being nasty, look what the Countess of Lennox said about Mary and the Queen.

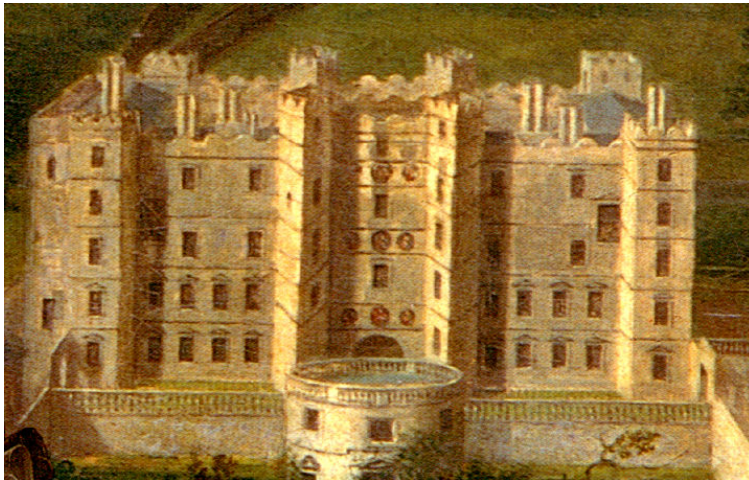
"The Queen is a good lady to Mary and in my opinion treats her better than she deserves. The Queen has restrained from publishing Mary's wickedness, which is manifestly known".¹⁴⁴

Though the Countess was the mother to Darnley and is biased, there's clearly no sign she had hard feelings towards Elizabeth, about being shut up in the Tower. No record of the meeting has survived, but we do know, Cecil and Sir Walter Mildmay went. Presumably they went to further the treaty, however since the Scots didn't like the treaty, it wasn't going to go anywhere, after all the Scots held all the aces. The English stupidly didn't know that, though. Something did come out of Cecil's trip, because the Earl and his charge moved to Sheffield Castle in Yorkshire.

Sheffield was more of a prosperous country village, than a town. Prosperous in the sense it was the home of the Talbots, who were very rich indeed. With the Scots Queen there it almost became a Royal Estate. I say almost, because she was no longer a Queen. But that's just my thought. As the English still made out she was as Queen, it was a Royal Estate. She came to Sheffield around the 28th of November. Mary was told only the day before she left that she was going, this being done to prevent an escape during the journey being planned. There was no pomp or display this time either. Her new home was an old castle, being built by Talbot's ancestor the First Earl of Shrewsbury. Like Tutbury, it survived till the Civil War, when it was attacked, later being demolished. A survey of 1637 gives a good description. Covering an area of four acres, it was moated only on two sides, because on the others were two rivers that joined together on a corner. Described as being 'fairly built and very spacious' having various buildings, plus an armoury, grain processing area, barns, stables and housing for the various people needed to run the place. Nearby, making it self-sufficient, were orchards, hop yards, and chicken runs.¹⁴⁵ Together with the largest park in South Yorkshire, that could supply it with fresh venison, was bang next to it. Talbot also had coalmines, on a hill, overlooking the castle. Thus all the fireplaces were supplied with what they called 'sea coal'.



Luxury homes to live in for the Queen of Scots. Unfortunately neither has survived the ravages of time. If they had, like Sheffield Manor (above), we wouldn't be thinking of the Scots Queen as a prisoner.



Chatsworth, of these two properties, shows how impressive these houses were, however only Sheffield Manor was commissioned for Mary Stuart to live in.

Chapter 12

DUKE, BISHOP, POSTMAN

The spring of 1571 saw a tangled mess of lies uncovering. The lies were brought about by the Duke of Norfolk after power, Mary Stuart thinking everything was done to help her and Philip of Spain trying to get his own back on Elizabeth Tudor. The Bishop of Ross was very much part of the action. Being Mary's ambassador he could go and see whom he liked. Cecil (now Lord Burghley) already suspected Ross and found out he was connected with Roberto Ridolphi an Italian, who was supposed to be a banker in London. Two letters that the Italian had carried, marked 30 and 40 had fallen into Cecil's hands. Ross was questioned and said that they were for the Queen of Scots (40) and the Spanish ambassador (30).¹⁴⁶ Because the bishop knew about them, it was deeply implicating, for these were no ordinary letters, but part of invasion plans. Ross had nothing to fear though, having something like diplomatic immunity and said, "Queen Elizabeth should not be troubled".¹⁴⁷

Who was he kidding! Although, he also said she had to do certain things after the invasion of England. By his actions, he also implicated his own sovereign.

On the 14th of May 1571, Shrewsbury received two letters. One was from Queen Elizabeth, stating Ross could no longer be Mary's ambassador, if she wanted to be friends with the English.¹⁴⁸ The other letter was from Cecil, investigating the plot. He wanted to know the following from his charge:

1. What letters she wrote by Ridolphi.

2. What letters she received by Ridolphi.
3. To whom and what purpose.
4. Letters numbered 30, 40, whether she got or saw them.¹⁴⁹

On the 18th, Cecil got his answers, via Shrewsbury. “None have been given or received by Ridolphi, doesn’t remember being named 30 or 40 and would not say if she had”.¹⁵⁰

Mary implied they were state secrets of Scotland and said she had never heard of the Italian. This is the first time we can prove she lied, for a few months later she admitted she knew him. The Bishop of Ross was in a bigger mess! He was isolated, literally and diplomatically, by the English. The Duke of Norfolk had also been in contact with Mary since his release (Mary denied that too). Some of the Scots woman’s money from France had been going to help her people fight her cause in Scotland. Norfolk had been acting as a middleman to help Mary do this. Cecil and the Queen suspected that 30 and 40 were two English lords. They found out they were right when the Queen’s men intercepted some of Mary’s money, along with coded letters and luckily one that wasn’t, that named Norfolk’s secretary. The English officials could not decode the letters till they had the codebook. They found this in Norfolk’s house. The letter and money-carrying network was found out and Norfolk was back in the Tower on the 5th September. Many other English lords were arrested too.¹⁵¹

Cecil also discovered a lot more. I can reveal that he found out Norfolk was not sending the money to Mary’s friends, but her enemies. Even if Cecil didn’t work this out, it’s there in the correspondence! From other documents, Norfolk was up to his neck in the Ridolphi invasion plot, therefore a traitor to both Queens.

Then, after Norfolk’s arrest, Ross was taken before the Queen’s Council and the Attorney General. He was accused of

being a false ambassador (a double agent), a traitor and a private man (acting on his own behalf). Ross just smiled, presumably thinking himself protected. Cecil knew all along he would not talk and consulted the top legal experts, who were his friends as well. The 'old boy' network was operating in those days. They had officially ruled that if he was a private man, Ross could be charged. This was what the Attorney General declared him. In other words he lost the immunity. Even knowing this, he did not speak and was sent to the Tower to reflect on it and the possibly use of the rack if he did not talk. This more often than not made people talk by just being shown it. There is no evidence that he was tortured. Cecil even told him the Queen didn't want to take action, but would unless he spoke out and even that would not be held against him. It must have been clear to Ross; Cecil was after bigger fish than he was and he talked, which I don't think would have been too hard for him. "Norfolk would do what he could to have her in his hands" said Ross.¹⁵²

In a different way of saying things, the Duke of Norfolk was prepared to do anything to free Mary Stuart. As for King Philip of Spain's involvement, 'his fleet was to land at Harwich,' stated one letter.¹⁵³ This meant that Thomas was plotting for the invasion of his own country by a foreign power, something that could still result in his death until very recently. We know Philip had every intention of invading, from the armada, he sent later. Could it be that he did all this because Elizabeth had turned him down, with an insult, when he proposed? After all Philip was the man who made the decisions, it could have been enough to motivate him.

So what became of Ross, Norfolk and Mary as the result of this plot? Ross was reluctantly released and went to France, where he continued to chatter, despite a promise not to. Thomas Howard, Duke of Norfolk was sent for trial in January 1572,

Shrewsbury taking part and Sir Ralph Sadler sent to Sheffield as a temporary custodian. The trial found him guilty of treason. That meant death in England until 1998. The Queen tried everything to keep Norfolk alive, for various reasons, one of which must have been the fact they were related. Eventually she had no choice but to sign the warrant have it sealed and Norfolk was executed on the 2nd of June 1572.

What was Mary's attitude to Norfolk and Ross' plight? "Let them answer for themselves". She said.¹⁵⁴

When the result of Norfolk's trial reached Sheffield, Mary cried. Bess Talbot asked Mary "What ails you?"

Mary replied "You could not be that ignorant" and then pleaded his innocence. "Then he would not have been found guilty," Bess told her.¹⁵⁵

Many historians seem to think that the enormous amount of correspondence we have about Mary Stuart was normal. It was more likely generated because she was never satisfied. The English, trying to cope with Mary's unrealistic expectations have sometimes been treated badly by historians, particularly when they imposed restrictions on Mary's extravagant lifestyle. For that is what it was no matter how much she complained. When she plotted, any other Monarch would have wasted know time in sending her to the block. Any other Monarch indeed, but we're talking about Elizabeth!

Shortly after the Duke of Norfolk's arrest, William Cecil told the Earl of Shrewsbury to reduce Mary's servants. They also imposed other restrictions, Shrewsbury writing back to Cecil, commenting, "No practice can be attempted without being met with".¹⁵⁶ The biggest problem they had being paying for them. George Talbot finished up paying for at least nine and another lot were sent back to Scotland, because Talbot wouldn't pay for them. Neither would Mary, she wouldn't even pay for Angel

Marie, her perfumer! Judging by the list there were more Scottish people in Sheffield Town, then those that lived there and the cream of the Scots nobility was there too!

Her top servants still, after the cut, amounted to 30, but she refused to dismiss any saying she would die without them. Actually she might have died with them, for there is not much evidence that all were loyal to her. Shrewsbury insisted they had to go and Mary said, "Let the Queen do with Me what she will". So the Earl dismissed them.¹⁵⁷

Mary complained to the Queen. Plus anyone else! So Shrewsbury was told to tell her, "Your unlawful practices are now known to the world and you are the cause of the Duke of Norfolk's troubles".¹⁵⁸

Indeed Cecil wrote to Shrewsbury, after Norfolk's execution, "*All men now cry out for your charge*".¹⁵⁹

Mary might have thought this meant to release her and this time she may have been right. Once out of Shrewsbury's protection, she would have definitely been killed. Under English law (officially) however, this Scottish Woman couldn't be executed, due in part to them treating her as a Queen, but laws are made in parliament. This explains Shrewsbury's response, to a question put by Cecil, about Mary getting better if she went to Buxton. He thought she would not recover, as she was only ill because parliament was discussing her.¹⁶⁰

Parliament produced a list of accusations against Mary and a bill, which would have meant the Scottish Queen going the same way as the Duke did. Elizabeth blocked the act, even though it was designed to protect her. I believe Elizabeth feared parliament in many ways. Being shy would make her somewhat anxious about all those Lords. In spite of that her main fear was the power of the place. If they could come up with bills to get rid of

Mary, maybe they could depose her. None of them were really interested in doing that though, for she kept parliaments down in number, for most did not want to keep going there, the reason being the expense. One can imagine few Members of Parliament going to Westminster today, if it cost thousands of pounds to get there! So apart from the cuts to her liberty, Mary appears to have walked away from the Ridolphi Plot, thanks to Elizabeth.

George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, suffered more than Mary Stuart did, for he had to put up with her moans. These consisted of saying she would not make it through the winters, becoming dangerously ill, then fit the next day (especially when visitors were around) and getting angry. Her body was examined after her death; she appears to have been in good health, with the exception of carbon deposits on her lungs, this being due to the coal fires. Undoubtedly quite a cruel woman she frequently said to George, she would remember him another time. Take for example Stuart giving out charity, which she did to poor of the places she was kept, however Mary uses this act to gain support, for herself. She whinged about her food, the French Ambassador told the Queen, Mary's diet wasn't been kept to, perhaps because servants had left a few plates of the menu, one Easter.¹⁶¹ Elizabeth only got her letters and Shrewsbury stepped in to stop her sending them, telling William Cecil (by then Lord Treasury), "I am forced to walk with her near unto my castle".¹⁶² He also was forced to ride with her, to make sure that she didn't go further than two miles from any house that she was resident in, which Elizabeth thought was a good idea. She didn't have to enforce these good ideas, did she? Every fresh directive would have met with a barrage of abuse from Stuart, sadly sympathy lands on her door in these times, not on the poor sods that had to put up with her snobbery, lies and cruelty. No illness makes you a snob!

By 1572 Mary's people, in Scotland, had been completely defeated by the Scots. The English also negotiated a treaty with the French and Mary, if she had any influence before now had none. Of course she never accepted that and used the 12,000 allowance to stir up trouble wherever she could, whether she knew it or not.

The 25th of April 1573 saw Mary moved to the Manor Lodge, or to give its correct name Sheffield Manor, which was located in the centre of Sheffield Park. That itself was quite a thing to behold; having Oak Trees that could accommodate 200 men sheltering under their branches. And very obviously bigger than the Major Oak in Sherwood. She could even ride up and down between the Castle and Manor without getting too hot or wet. For the main paths were lined with Walnut trees, that one Sheffield historian described their branches as being so thick that they formed a canopy. The Manor appears to have been rebuilt for Mary Stuart, taking some 3 years to build, which gives us some idea of how extensive it was, as it's now in ruins, which cover an area of nearly 4 acres. The house had two galleries, one of which was for the Queen herself. The modern equivalents of galleries being heated swimming pools. All the latest features and fittings, for keeping a person in absolute luxury. Such as fountains and French tiles, decorated plaster ceilings. These were so ornate and even spread into the gatehouse of the site. The fireplaces had heraldic symbols on them, mostly of the Talbot family. Ceilings had and still have in the Turret House, motifs of Scotland, George's status as a Garter Knight, and things to do with Queen Elizabeth, like two faces, which now look more like American Indians. The whole place was also designed to keep both the Earl's people separate from the Scotch people. This can also be seen in an inventory done in 1582. This even states that the Scots Queen had every sort of room that George had, such as

the Queen's kitchen as opposed to the Lord's kitchen. It is also unique in that it was the only building to be built in England to house Stuart. It was therefore built to be strong, unlike Wingfield. Ralph Sadler and Talbot were in agreement when he said that he could hold Stuart there with 60 men, and would need 300, for Wingfield. Mary makes little comment on the place. Sadly it's seen by some as a prison, complete with tunnels for escaping in, which it doesn't have!¹⁶³ Some prison! More like a ruined Balmoral Castle.

In May, Gilbert, the Earl's son, was at court perhaps for the appointment of Sir Frances Walsingham as Secretary to the Queen. Francis a strong protestant, if not a puritan, was formally in France, during the massacre there. Dressing in black, as his religious beliefs shunned the use of bright colours, he stood out in court like a sore thumb, making him the butt of many jokes. Even the Queen joined in, calling him "the Moore" from the African ambassadors who came to the court.¹⁶⁴

Gilbert sent back the latest court gossip to his father. Gilbert reckoned the two daughters of Lord Howard, had crushes on the Earl of Leicester, who had been seeing a lot of Her Majesty. The result of this was that the Queen was not pleased with the three of them.¹⁶⁵ Cecil's reaction, he says, is to 'wink' at love matters and never meddle. Gilbert also had to tell a Doctor Wilson, a high official (the Master of Requests) within the court, that Mary had armed guards around her day and night, whilst at the Lodge. Gilbert had to point out to him, "Unless she can transform herself to a flea or a mouse, it was impossible for her to escape".¹⁶⁶

That might sound harsh treatment to many people today, but this is precisely what Stuart had asked for. Though clearly arguments now raged in court that Mary should be kept more strongly held than what she was. Some even see Sheffield Manor

as weak place to be kept in. In August, Mary was allowed to go to Buxton for the waters. Shrewsbury, now reporting to Walsingham, “She seems more healthy than before”. That’s before she went!¹⁶⁷ Buxton is still famous for its spa waters and was with the Elizabethan’s as well. Robert Dudley made a trip there, so the idea of Stuart going may have come from him. Proving they were not hard-hearted to her conditions, plus it was part of George Talbot’s massive estate of property.

The next few years saw Mary shifting between Sheffield Castle and Sheffield Manor, plus monthly trips to Buxton once a year. In 1575 Gilbert’s wife gave birth in the castle, which caused the Queen concern about strangers being around Mary. Somebody had told her Majesty about it, because Shrewsbury says, “The midwife excepted, no strangers have come within her sight”.¹⁶⁸

So the midwife saw Mary, but how did the Queen know that? Mary told her, who else! She was perhaps woke, by the birth or the midwife and complained to Elizabeth. Told you she was cruel! Gilbert wouldn’t stay in Sheffield after that.

Mary often said she would pay her own way if her liberties were increased — they were — and she didn’t. Shrewsbury’s, looking after this troublesome woman; fee was a mere 52 pounds. The talk around the court was of reducing it; however it is not clear that the ‘fee’ was reduced, till around 1580. Shrewsbury also started to have rows with his wife, though we can’t be sure they were connected with the Earl’s role. More likely the passion of their romance had burned out, like many do. Even so he asked to be discharged from the service several times, but only to his honour. If anything caused the slightest suspicion, he would withdraw the request. Mary now made every

effort to prevent his discharge, fearing the other likely candidates for the task. Stuart was extremely manipulative, without appearing so.

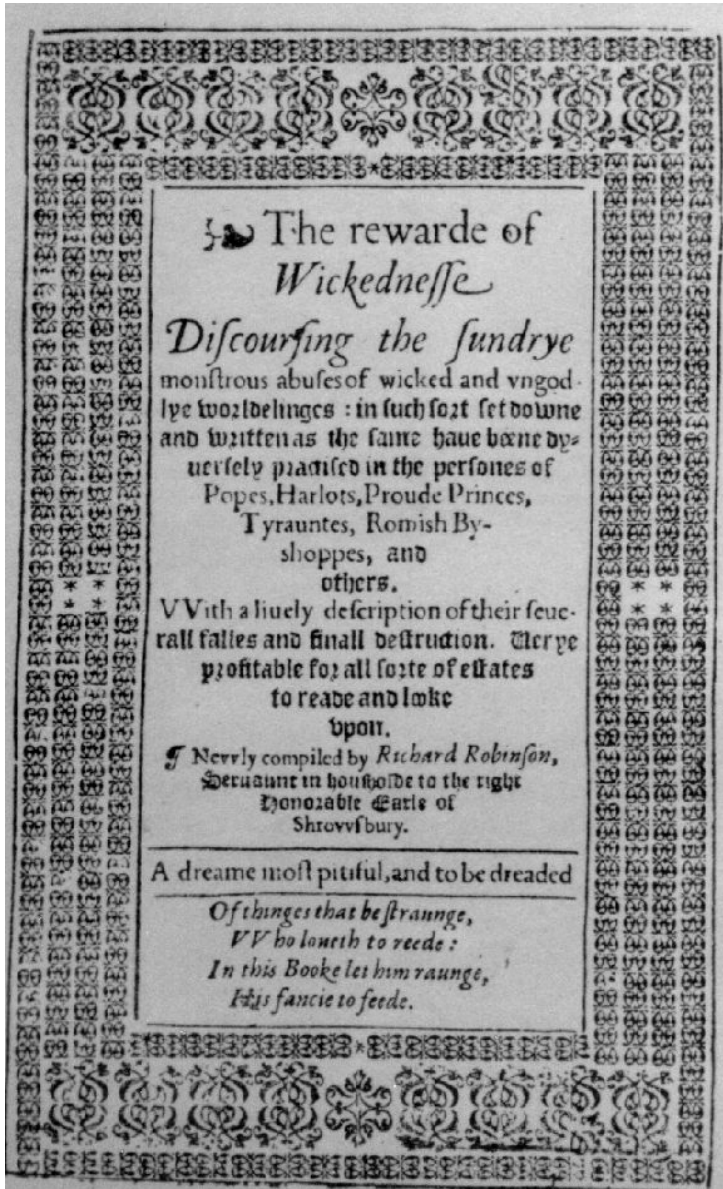
Gilbert and Talbot's other son, Francis, kept their father informed on the Queen and court gossip. Francis tells him, "The Queen asked about Mary, but I had to tell her I have not seen Mary for many years".¹⁶⁹

Gilbert also had a run in with Elizabeth. He says he was walking in the palace garden, early one morning, and looked up at the Queen's window, where the Queen was looking out. "My eye was full towards her," he said, "She was greatly ashamed as she was in her night stuff (*clothes*)".¹⁷⁰

Gilbert got a 'great flip' on his head, after dinner, from the Queen, who was still embarrassed as she told Cecil, walking next to her. I think he would have got another flip if she found out he had been talking about her possibly marriage to Francois Alencon and discovered you could win 1000 pounds, gambling, if it went ahead!

Actually the Queen would have married Francois, this time her friends at court stopped the marriage! She even went against the outside (from the people) public pressure, about marring him. Inside the court it wasn't any better. Christopher Hatton broke down in tears; Robert Dudley even thought she had sex with Francois. The Queen soon put him straight on that! They all did their best to put her off, including the Ladies in Waiting, who filled Elizabeth's head with the horror stories of having sex. To Francois she poured out her true feelings: "I love and yet FORCED to seem to hate" wrote the Queen.¹⁷¹

Clearly those that run the betting knew better, going on the past, not personal feelings of the Queen, for the stake! It was postponed, within a few years he died.



One way of finding out what people of the time think of Mary is to read this front cover of "*The Reward of Wickedness*".



Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots. The Sheffield Portrait.

Mary spent 14 years in Sheffield, being better looked after than her whole 8 years in Scotland (as an adult). Many historians never even mention she was there, yet this picture was painted in Sheffield and is used in books, often on the front cover!

Chapter 13

LUXURY FOR MARY WHILE SHE PLOTS

During 1580/1, the fee or allowance was definitely up for discussion. A new French ambassador trying to intercede on Mary Stuart's behalf got some strong words from Queen Elizabeth for once. She told him, she should use her allowance, from France, to pay for herself. She says, "*Why should I pay for her, when she uses her money to cause war between England and Scotland*".¹⁷²

We should not make the mistake, by the ambassador doing this; that other countries were all for Mary, as she often claimed, as the following letter shows: from Monsieur de Mauvissière (the same ambassador) to his Monarch.

"The King of Persia (who had been deposed) has said he wouldn't mind royal treatment (like Mary Stuart). For she writes to whom she pleases, receives news from all over the world and she is more happy and safe in her captivity, if she did but know it. Seeing her mind could not rest long without getting into mischief".¹⁷³

The ambassador and Shrewsbury did manage to stop Elizabeth cutting of the fee completely. Depending on if it had been reduced, which seems doubtful, it was now 30 pounds. How much of Talbot's funds were consumed is not known. He doesn't seem to have been reduced too much, for construction work saw

several new buildings scattered about his estates in Yorkshire and Derbyshire. His wife also could finance Hardwick Hall, from his will.

A series of commissions failed to give Mary her absolute liberty, which is what she wanted. This was largely because she wanted to go and join her son in Scotland. He wanted nothing to do with her and even objected to the English talking with her about it. This was mostly due to the fact he was brought up protestant, though the real reason being he wanted to be King and King of both parts of the British Isles. This also could be done if he married Elizabeth. A long shot he would have thought, but he did ask!

Most of the pro-Mary faction writers tend to cut down the Throckmorton Plot, which saw another attempt by the Spanish to kill Elizabeth, in their biographies of Mary. In the latest one I've seen, by James Mackay, it's reduced to a few paragraphs.¹⁷⁴ Even Antonia Fraser devotes only 2 pages of 713. She also qualifies it with the notion that Stuart had little influence. She prefers to see it, as Walsingham setting Mary up. But for 3 years (at least) he knew nothing of it and thinks it is a French plot only. Despite Charles Padget being his, so-called, double agent, the spymaster finds out by accident the rest of the plot.

Why would these writers do this? Simple, this conspiracy heavily implicates Mary Stuart. I personally would not believe them, if they told me that they didn't have the space or couldn't find the time to write or research the subject in question. This being for the reason that I was able to track down sufficient evidence, from just a few sources and in two days, to see what Mary was up to. This was clearly trouble.

Sir Francis Throckmorton was the brother of Nicholas, who

took pity on Mary when she was deposed. This Throckmorton didn't just take pity; no he was going to do something about her predicament that was, on his part, treasonous!

Sir Francis, constantly hanging around the French embassy, though not during the day, made him suspicious to another Sir Francis. It also made the French ambassador look dodgy, to the ever-watchful Walsingham. Yet why was the head of the 'secret service' even interested in keeping his eye on the French in the first place? As it turns out, since October 1581, Walsingham had been given a clue that nearly led him up a blind ally. Mary Stuart had written to Paris, for the reason that the Archbishop of Glasgow was there. After the numerous plotters she unmistakably had dealings with, Mary's letters were being intercepted as a matter of routine. This letter had revealed that the Duke of Guise was planning something. What was it? Walsingham did not know, but Stuart obviously did. It was a waste of time to question her, even if he could get Elizabeth's permission, for Mary wasn't going to tell him the truth. Plus she might have tried to change how she got letters out, avoiding any scrutiny by him at all.

So Walsingham was in the dark, staying in it as well and didn't know that Guise had attended a conference in France, which had openly discussed the Spanish/Scots invasion of England.¹⁷⁵ The English were thus again in the dark, over the Spanish. Though they probably thought and quite correctly as it turns out, that Philip of Spain's forces were busy elsewhere to be a threat yet to England. Nonetheless Spain was giving it a lot of thought still.

Mary's son in Scotland was quite a bargaining chip as things go. The factions tried all sorts of ways to get this young man on their side. Esmé Stuart, part of one of these factions, had given his word that the Scots King would support the plan. Esmé was

now Regent in Scotland and had promised troops, which either together with Spain or alone would mount to eight thousand men. The plan had two major flaws, still it was discussed, despite the problem that most, who had been invited, had refused or were notably absent from the conference. Take the Spanish ambassador, invited, and didn't go. Bernardino de Mendoza, as that same diplomat, in England, was giving out pensions to Catholics, while supposedly representing his own Country's interests. Mind you he perhaps was, in a way, for Spain hoped that the English Catholics would do their work for them. Nonetheless this was not the reason Spain was allowed an embassy in England. No country now is allowed an embassy, simply on the grounds of overthrowing the ruler or government of that land; they certainly were not allowed one for it, then. As yet Walsingham had nothing on the Spanish embassy and its people.

Going back to the plan Stuart, whose title was the Duke of Lennox, knew that eight thousand, was not enough to invade England. So he suggested to Guise, that with this force, he could take King James. Plus James would be made to change his religion and subsequently the whole of Scotland would change back to Catholicism. This was seriously considered as a possibility, even though Mary Stuart clearly had tried to do this herself, resulting in total failure. As too had Mary of Guise, the Scots Queen's mother, and was plainly related to the duke of the plan. This mostly shows that France had lost control of Scotland and would try anything to get it back under their influence. Not all in France agreed, and splits in the French camp kept the King in the dark about the plan, as much as the English. Again they had no idea of that as well. This is why Walsingham was instructed to monitor their embassy.

The second problem for the Guise inspired plan was that they

were assured by people such as Mendoza and priests like William Holt, that the English Catholics would rise up, once the invasion was on. Both of these men, without a doubt, did not understand these people at all. The problems for this religious group in England were not just those of being in a persecuted minority religion, which was practically illegal. But the economy, which was not in a good state at all, would be harder on these people, making them what we would call a disadvantaged, oppressed minority, as well!

There you have it; academics do come in useful at times, though not that they have appeared to have worked this out, in relation to the Catholics. They were not generally treated to the same harshness that Mary Tudor dished out to Protestants. Plainly those of the new religion remembered what she had done in the name of that religion and Philip of Spain's involvement. Life was merely harder and more perilous, at times, for anyone having the Catholic faith. So when Mendoza gave out pensions (money) and ran the embassy as a church, by holding mass there, they turned up, promising him everything.¹⁷⁶ Most Catholics simply needed the cash. As for Holt and the other priests' attitudes, they were picking up the dissatisfaction that was evident. Most Catholics would only get to see a priest on an irregular basis. Thus like a politician, who does not meet or go to see the voters regularly, or a manager who stays in the office, when they do go out they wished they hadn't! If Holt had been around a lot more, he would have got a much clearer opinion on the matter. This was true to say that he could have counted the real people, he'd spoken with, and who would turn on the protestant authorities, on the fingers of one hand. Many of the intellectuals have fallen for this discontent with the state, by Catholics. Yet like present times few stand up and be counted,

when push comes to shove. Even educationalists themselves, over the funding of the universities, plus students over the grants needed to live on, will not fight, though they moan!

Walsingham and the authorities however, may have benefited from wavering Catholic persons in all the plots investigated. The Padget family was typical and divided as well. One, Thomas Padget remaining loyal to his faith, and so much so, had to escape to France. His brother Charles was up for some action, and then decided to turn on the conspirators later.

The planned action had problems of its own; it never got past the planning stage anyway, for events in Protestant Scotland put a stop to the initial design. Some of the Scottish earls were very dissatisfied with Regent Esmé. While out hunting (the standard pastime of monarchs of this period) King James was taken by a party of these same earls. The Regent lost power, over the King and all the Catholic supporters' power base, was smashed. Esmé got away with his life, by passing through England to get to France. He did this by asking permission from Queen Elizabeth, which was granted, as she had no-idea of his part in the plan to invade England, or of anything except that France was up to something. Fortunately the mistake didn't matter too much, as he died shortly afterwards. With this shift in power, the 'backdoor' invasion by France or Spain, into England, was now out of the question. Though to the English it was a persistent threat, for they still did not know. The Duke of Guise knew and said, no doubt reluctantly, "it would be better to effect the enterprise by the way of England".¹⁷⁷

This doesn't mean that this conspiracy would have succeeded. The Spanish ambassador just thought that all they needed to do was to convert James to Catholicism and the rest of Scotland would fall like bricks. Never did he think that foreign intervention was contributing to the new religion's cause. For

few changed to Catholicism during Mary's reign, why would they then change during James'? Though now, after the shift, he was in agreement that the King wasn't likely to change his religion. Mary Stuart also discussed this and she and Mendoza had come to the conclusion the plans were flawed over the problem of raising troops. This did stop Mendoza going in on a new revised scheme, which required 4,000 to 5,000, men. The source of these men was clearly laid at Spain's door. Philip had troops and was committed to crushing the Netherlands, therefore had few available. The English help to the Netherlands, was (unknown to them) helping to keep Philip from attacking!

Five thousand men, of course, would still be not enough and a figure of 20,000 English Catholics somehow entered the equation. Plus extra numbers of those that had gone to France! More likely the true figure needed, but from what source did our plotters get this figure? I think possibly from the handful of priests in England and/or Mendoza. Slowly but surely a list of notable English Catholic families began to submit to the plan. Most had grudges with Elizabeth, names of those, already familiar in previous plots. Top of the list, the Howards again, the brother of the executed Fourth Duke of Norfolk, Henry Howard, quite obviously had resentment towards the Queen for Thomas' death. This might have been doubled, when the Norfolk title was lost to the family, which they didn't get back till 1660. The historian A. L. Rowse, considered him to be at best aristocratic and at worse a reptile.¹⁷⁸ Though how Catholic he was, is questionable, when you mull over that King James (certainly not Catholic) shows him high favour in the years to come. If he learned nothing from the episode with his brother, neither did Henry Percy the Eighth Earl of Northumberland, from the Seventh Earl. Though the Northern Rebellion had taught them one thing, being that a large force of foreign troops was needed

to do the job properly. The Arundel family were also up for action, for Charles wanted to take part, others willing to come in, were Thomas Morgan and William Allen, known as the Bishop of Durham. Not forgetting the key to the name of the plot, strangely because he was no-way the leader, Francis Throckmorton.

The new objective was to invade England, setting foot in Lancashire, presumably identified as a strong Catholic area. Guise, the leader (and who the plot should really be named after) was to head the force, notwithstanding that he had no military experience. The English however were more concerned about Scotland, after another upheaval in power there. Walsingham was sent to broker a deal, though he had no cash or anything to offer, which would prevent a French takeover that they still believed could happen. With nothing to bargain with he had no effect. Mary Stuart mocked him in a letter, saying she could have helped. Oh sure the Scots listened to her all the time, I think not!

Things weren't going to well in the Spanish/Guise enterprise either. Guise had to reassure the English Catholics the Spanish army would go home, after the Throne had been given to...well guess whom? Mary Stuart. She is fundamental to the entire operation. She was the source of finance. Troops mostly need paying. Large amounts of Mary's money never reached her, where did it go? Mary maintained it was held back by France and we now know why. If the Duke of Guise either got hold of it or someone in his employ did, it could have been used, as the capitol needed. This doesn't mean the money was spent necessarily. It could have been used for the collateral for a loan from somewhere, maybe Rhome.

Charles Padget, supposedly working as a double agent for Walsingham, however doesn't give the game away. Maybe he was supplying him with false information instead. Padget is

given the task of convincing doubtful supporters that the Spanish force would pull out. Still he does not supply Walsingham with any useful information, who continues in the surveillance of the French embassy; still thinking it's a French plot only. Nothing happens till an insider of the embassy, tells them about Throckmorton, which goes to prove they didn't even suspect Francis! The insider may have told them about Sir Francis, on the grounds that the insider was on the French King's party, who nothing of the Guise' plot. More likely this person thought Throckmorton was bad for French interests. Alerted to him, Walsingham promptly checked him out, finding that he was connected to Mary Stuart. Possibly from reading old letters from Mary herself, who couldn't stop writing letters to anyone and everybody? Francis Throckmorton had heard Sir Nicholas talk about her and developed a bond with Mary. Walsingham quickly put two and two together and got more than he bargained for. He snooped down on Francis and caught also Lord Henry Howard too! Arthur Throckmorton his cousin, but loyal to Elizabeth, wrote in his diary, which he put in cipher code to be on the safe side, that the two men had been sent to the Tower.

Taken at the same time were letters and papers that implicated some of those in the conspiracy. As Sir Francis was English, he was not exempt from being tortured on the rack, therefore he was. He confessed to the rest of the plot. Then the manhunts started. Padget escaped to Europe, though if he was helping the spymaster, was tipped off to get out. He wasn't the only one to escape, for Lord Arundel took flight too. Others, though arrested, chose to get out of being executed, by other methods. Henry Percy shot himself; it was believed at the time, that he did this to prevent the Queen getting hold of his estates and lands. It was true that had he been executed for treason, the Queen would have got hold of his lands and his estate. These would have then been

sold and used as income for the Treasury, which was much depleted. I don't think you would find any evidence of people being executed just to top up the public expenditure. Though it could have been done!

Most of the conspirators got away with their lives like Henry Howard. Some couldn't be touched, such as the Spanish Ambassador. He was expelled though, cheekily asking for transport. He was told that was for 'friends'.¹⁷⁹

Sir Francis Throckmorton would go down in history, with his name attached to the plan and became another victim of Mary's madness, losing his life in the Tower of London. The Duke of Guise remained free.

Ironically the plot was scuppered a month before the arrests were made. King Philip of Spain dealt a deadly blow to it, by refusing to invest any troops needed for the plan to succeed. That's assuming it was feasible to begin with. Personally I do not believe for a moment it was, the whole thing being very nearly as silly as John Somerville trying to shoot the Queen in October 1583. Although in his case he was quite insane. Another form of insanity in the real culprit didn't get her brought to trial. No action was taken at all, because the laws of the land would not have permitted it. Mary's popularity conversely declined and Elizabeth's soared. Nonetheless there were calls for the same act of parliament; the Queen had stopped, being brought before Parliament again.

Back in Sheffield, Shrewsbury's marriage had now broken down completely. Nasty rumours began circulating about Mary and Shrewsbury having an affair. They were spread because the Scots woman was so unpopular, it's not possible this time she had anything to do with these rumours, for they beseeched her honour too. Mary demanded them stopped. Shrewsbury appears to have taken them with a pinch of salt, but later believes family

relations started them. Not by Bess, I might add. Historians have blamed her and as Shrewsbury and his wife appear to be either not on speaking terms or having tremendous rows, it could certainly point to her as the cause of the rumours. Even so, when Mary says Bess Shrewsbury, ‘traitorously attacked’ her, she doesn’t mean the slander. For Mary says in the same letter (to the French ambassador), “(It is) my intention that you should indirectly implicate the Countess of Shrewsbury”.¹⁸⁰

She clearly, had a row with his wife and was now trying to get her own back, as this letter dated 5th of January shows. What the row was about is a mystery. Mary used the slanders to try to get Bess punished and furthermore wrote to Elizabeth for ‘those responsible’ to be punished, though she doesn’t mention the Countess yet. Queen Elizabeth responded on the 8th of March, but the court does not know who uttered such speeches. “As ‘we’ would have punished them, as ‘we’ will do, when ‘we’ find out whom”.¹⁸¹

The French ambassador didn’t implicate the Countess of Shrewsbury, judging by the Queen’s response, or perhaps Elizabeth didn’t understand what he was trying to do. So Mary sent letters to her, including the famous ‘scandal letter’ to make sure George’s wife was punished. The letter was so ‘bad’ that Victorian and Edwardian historians left it in French in their books! However Bess never was, so the Queen wasn’t convinced. The Countess of Shrewsbury didn’t make any such speeches, of that we can be certain, because her husband found out later they were made by an innkeeper in Islington.¹⁸²

You don’t need to be an expert to work out what Bess Shrewsbury had really said about Elizabeth to Stuart. Mary even mixes up the events in her Scandal Letter. First she states that

Christopher Hatton, the Lord Treasury had been forced to leave the court over the ‘amorous intentions’ of the Queen, Mary then states it was over a ‘gold buttons’ remark!

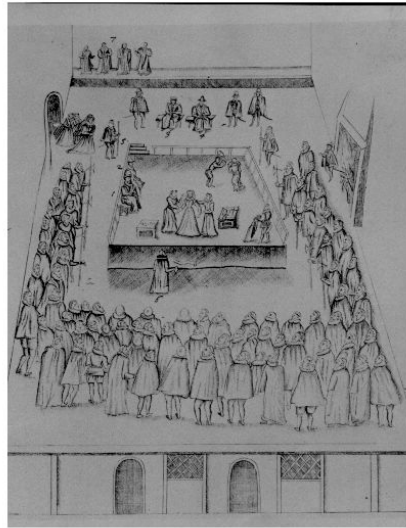
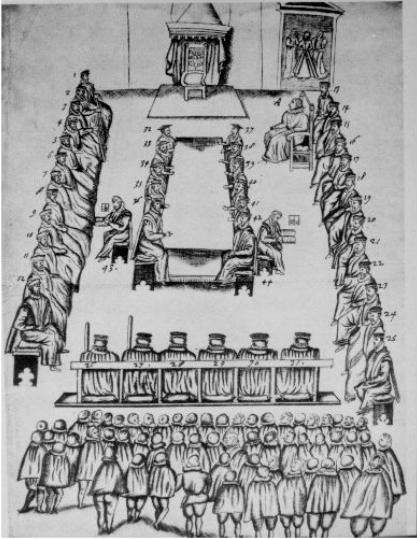
We can thus mix up Mary’s letter and then put out what Bess probably said: *“Elizabeth was not like other women and in this respect (of being a Queen) it was foolish on the part of all those who supported the marriage to the Duke of Anjou to imagine it would come to pass. For she would forego the freedom to make love and have her way with new paramours for the succession. I regretted the fact the Queen could not be contented with Master Hatton and another person of this kingdom, then compromise herself with a foreigner called Simier”*.¹⁸³ At this point Talbot’s wife picked up some well known gossip, which maybe true in parts and false in others, however reading between the lines you can tell that Bess liked the Queen¹⁸⁴ and had a soft spot for Hatton. Bess picked up rumours about the Queen’s relationship with Anjou and Simier, which she didn’t approve of, from the visitors to them and Stuart.

What the letter, Mary sent, does show, is that Mary is extremely cruel and false with anyone she comes across and can twist the truth till it fits her own lies, created by her selfish personality. To her there are only two sorts of person. Those she can use and those she can’t. She however makes mistakes and these caught up with her in the end, for some were using her, just as surely as she was using them.



Sir Amyas Paulet vowed not to 'shipwreck' his conscience or leave a 'blot' to his posterity by shedding blood without law or warrant, when asked to kill Mary. She however in her letter to Babbington would have had him killed. So whose 'evil' sprit is Tuibury haunted by?

Paulet, according to the psychic of TV's Most Haunted.



In place of photographs, the Elizabethan state, used sketches to demonstrate what happened to Mary Stuart. These show the trial and the execution. The face mask might also be her, though there is some doubt, however it could well be Mary, taken long before her death. She did think she was going to die! The mask furthermore ended up at William Maitland's house, where it still resides, adding weight to its claim. Note the eyebrows, eyelashes, not seen in paintings of any women of the time.

Chapter14

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION

George Talbot, the Earl of Shrewsbury, was finally replaced, with honour, in August 1584. His illness diagnosed as gout, but believed to be arthritis now, didn't help. Mary Stuart left from the Manor Lodge on the 2nd of September never to return to Sheffield. George's tomb in Sheffield Cathedral, still protests his innocence about the affair with Mary.¹⁸⁵ Though he was in that instance, he was still having an affair. This only comes to the surface when his will was read out. Despite the personal intervention of Elizabeth herself in the marriage, Bess could not understand why George didn't want her. It turns out that the cook at the Manor or Sheffield Castle, one Eleanor Britton, was there at the reading. You can put two and two together in this set of circumstances, when I tell you that he spent a great deal of time with her at Handsworth Hall, on his return to Sheffield. His family shunned him, but this didn't make him unpopular in the area he lived. Reports of 20,000 people came to his funeral!

Sir Ralph Sadler, a former relief custodian, got this hardest of tasks till April 1585, when Sir Amyas Paulet became Mary's final custodian. Others openly refused to take on the task. He is seen as one of the strictest of the custodians, largely because he didn't approve of the Scottish symbols attiring the great halls of

the English residences, where she was kept. Having them taken down and replaced by more suitable English ones, still he was told off by Elizabeth for doing just that.

During the change over years, she stayed at Wingfield and Tutbury and for the last two years of her life, cost the state nearly £10,000!¹⁸⁶ Parliament finally got through the act that Elizabeth had stopped earlier. With this act in place, anyone who tried to assassinate the Queen, if guilty, could legally be killed by anyone else. It also meant if Mary plotted, like she had done, she too could be executed. Mary was, in fact, told this was a warning to her. Less than two years later, Elizabeth is facing parliament, which was pressing her to execute the Scottish Queen. James (her son) was now King of Scots, so this title was simply a diplomatic one.

Anthony Babington and others, perhaps six or more in total had **shot** at Queen Elizabeth.¹⁸⁷ The attempted assassination, by one or more of them, probably not Anthony himself who was the ringleader of it all, really did take place, very likely on the 9th or 10th of August. These dates can be established because Mary Stuart was arrested on the 11th I understand. The top candidate (I think) is a man called Ballard, though others were keen. He may have been a relation to John Ballard, who was one of the Princess Elizabeth's servants in 1552.¹⁸⁸ He also may thus have been well known to the Queen! It was the English end of another plot, by the Spanish, to invade England, kill the Queen, all with the help of extremist English Catholics. Anthony was also in communication with Mary Stuart and she wrote to him about her escape. The letter that was several pages long included a reference to 'foreign assistance' after the escape. She was by then at Chartly, a house of the Earl of Essex's. Other references, in the letter, included: 'putting six gentlemen to the task,' and a 'plan being put into practice'.¹⁸⁹ The Catholics did not see the

killing of Queen Elizabeth as ‘assassination’ and refer to it as ‘execution’. They could say this since the Pope had resolved them from punishment from divine retribution. However that only eased Babbington’s mind partially, for he still considers it a tragic act to perform.

One historian, Prince Labanoff, believed the two pieces were inserted during translation. Thomas Phelippes, for Walsingham undertook this translation. Labanoff also convinced others, even though there is no evidence to suggest they were. The letter was a copy of what had been intercepted. Perhaps not a very good copy as Thomas is reported to be short-sighted, plus he could have made mistakes! For the document uses a nomenclature of 23 symbols for most (not all) letters of the alphabet, also 35 other symbols and 5 extra codes! One wrong symbol and they would know the authorities are on to them. Unlike the Duke of Norfolk’s case they did not have the codebook. The rest of this letter is still quite damning especially the foreign assistance part. That would have meant the Spanish army. Mary was well guarded and would have needed a force of men, to stay free and for that matter to get her out, even she knew that. She also requested men with speedy horses to rush to her after the deed was done, to overpower her keeper. Other references alone meant Mary was plotting with Babbington, for the Spanish invasion of England. The other parts, if true, imply Mary had something to do with the attack on Elizabeth, especially if it had six people involved. The assault on the Queen was a last ditch attempt, because Elizabeth was shown the letter, from this treacherous woman, as proof of Mary’s intent. However the Queen wanted the letter altered to ask the names of the men. The plotters of course detected the altered letter and they panicked, leading to the attack. This is further proof for the reason that copies were taken and the originals left unaltered. Various modern

translations I have seen of this forged letter. Indeed the entire letter must have been rewritten to include the required notice, which would all be in cipher code. If Thomas did not do this, it may be why it was detected. I am confused as to what ‘precisely’ was asked of the plotters, for some historians have the Secret Service (for that is what they think it is) asking how the ‘six gentlemen’ intend to attack. While Simon Singh believes they asked for their names and social status.¹⁹⁰

If the academic world is right about this being the frontrunner of the Secret Service, then like its modern counterpart, some people in it were complete idiots! Fortunately they may have been able to recruit men after they had seen Elizabeth! Gilbert Gifford saw the Queen and then acted as the letter carrying person for Babbington, only he’d drop them off to Walsingham first! The final letter was the added letter. Very incriminating it tells the receiver to burn it quickly.

Presumably from interrogation records the spymaster had made, Anthony admitted that on this occasion he gave up trying to decipher this letter and gave it to Chidiock Tichborne to do, this being how Walsingham discovered how they had been rumbled. It’s likely, when the plotters told him that they thought of giving up and spilling the beans, it was said to spare their lives. After you consider that “we will perform or die” was sent to Mary Stuart.¹⁹¹

John Savage was even given clothes, jewellery suitable for attending the Royal Court and some monies for bribes, I assume. A few months earlier he had been named as the project assassin, this, according to their leader, made him very keen to do the deed. Anthony’s part was to get out of the country, make his way to Spain and tell the Spanish King to attack England. However controls on who went on ships must have been very stiff, the reason we can tell this being that Babbington went to

Walsingham's office for a passport! Seems a bit silly to me to go and ask for a document, giving permission to seek help for the invasion of England! Therefore it must have been his only option, to get to Spain. When he got to the equivalent of the Foreign Office, guess where Walsingham was? Out to lunch! So the diplomat in the office, one John Scudamore, invited Anthony to lunch at a tavern! Word went out to detain Babbington by means of a note, but this serious of blunders ended up with this dangerous man missing somewhere in London for ten days, plus egg on the faces of the spy master and his team. If this wasn't bad enough, Sir William Cecil, stopped by those looking for the plotters, asked how they would recognise one of them. In the Elizabethan world, where most men wouldn't be seen dead without facial hair, 'he will have a beard' was the amazing reply! Then that was the smallest of details, in comparison with someone taking pot shots at the Queen!

Mary was officially arrested, whilst she was out hunting in Chartly Park. If she did think (as some believe) that the men, who rode up, were part of the plot to free her, it merely means that she was guilty, nothing more. A full-scale search of her rooms found more evidence, to use, as well as vast sums of money. She would have been told that persons known to her and them had failed in taking the Queen Majesty's life. Mary denied doing anything; nonetheless she was taken to Fotheringhay Castle. There she would be tried under the 1555 Act. Those academics and supporters of Stuart, quickly point out the injustices of the Tudor Courts and the system. What they fail to take into account is that she could have been tried by just the 12-man jury system. Elizabeth wouldn't stand for that and made it a suitable trial for a royal person. This consisted of the top judges and dignitaries of the realm; some were Catholic too, as well as foreign observers. Some people, who think this is a show

trial, point out she had no defence council. The truth is however Mary would not have accepted one anyway. Before the proceedings commenced, she asked for her words to be recorded so that the world would know of her innocence, at the allegations levelled against her. They did and her words clearly convict her, even to the modern reader. Her argument was that the court could not try her, so she did not need defence council, by telling the Peers she was still a Queen. Yet what was she Queen of, when her son was King of Scotland, therefore did she recognise his right to rule? So she would trap herself, by her claim. That she could not plot because of being so 'strictly guarded'. She also told them 'I could write as easily as anything.' The inconsistencies continued as in previous plots, she had NEVER heard of Babbington. Later again, 'only wrote to Babbington to free Me, for who wouldn't in My circumstances'.¹⁹² Her letter to Anthony states that people in Paris had told her of him. This was another lie, because he had been in the service of George Talbot and she would have met him.

Mary's actions and words during the trial have made me to believe that Mary was without doubt suffering from some form of insanity and had been for some time. This madness I do NOT believe is caused by Porphyria, as she does not have all the symptoms. She does fit the descriptions of psychopaths however!

Others argue differently. Simon Singh, a cipher expert, clearly supports Mary, but why? He maintains that the encrypted letters, made both the plotters and Stuart think they were safe, thus by definition guilty. He and the rest are not the only ones, for Queen Elizabeth didn't like it one bit. She tried to prevent Mary's downfall. It was pure agony for her and a thankless task as well. This time the Queen failed and Mary was told she was guilty. This does not mean however that the death sentence has to take place. All sorts of options could be given, like expulsion from

the country, or even the more common ‘pardon’. Most thought like Mary did ‘death’ and still do when they write about it. Even so, the Queen would not sign the warrant for Stuart’s death. That brings us back to parliament. They wanted to know why Elizabeth wouldn’t sign the warrant.¹⁹³ She had to tell them that she knew of the danger to her life, by not signing and finishes by pleads to parliament to find another way. I think in this she was wrong! There wasn’t another way, but Elizabeth’s mind was in such turmoil, she said to them, “I give you an answer without answer”.¹⁹⁴

This of course all fits in with those who think Elizabeth had no right in law to execute the Queen of Scots. Rather like the Roundhead execution of Charles 1st. There was no law that could justify this action. Queen Elizabeth would ironically have agreed with them, not myself or those that think she had no choice or whatever other reasons. The mistake Elizabeth made was not accepting Mary’s resignation as Queen of Scotland. Even so Cecil had made the case (using legal reasons) for Mary not being a Queen at her trial. Legal officials found three precedents.¹⁹⁵ Mary Stuart would agree with me! She couldn’t believe for one minute that the English Queen would find a way not to put her to death. Elizabeth, nonetheless wanted to consider every other option, she never got the chance.

Sir Francis Walsingham, who played a major part in Mary’s downfall (using the double agents), didn’t play a part in her end. Walsingham was very ill and William Davison was acting Principal Secretary.¹⁹⁶ Sir Francis is not on the record as wanting to end the life of the Scots’ woman. Mary even lashed out at him, but his puritan beliefs can hardly have questioned the rightness of the need for execution. He however had seen what Elizabeth’s reactions to most situations were. I believe Davison was not used to the level of the Queen’s sarcasm, added to this

the she was very tense and full of anguish. How much experience William had can be demonstrated by the following episode. As the 1585 Act for the Queen's safety allowed Paulet and Sir Drue Drury (who had joined Paulet) to kill Stuart, with out comeback in law, Elizabeth said, to Davison, couldn't they find a way to do it. She was probably making a jibe at them all, in the event, he took it serious and sent the request off. Paulet and Drury refused, of course! Davison read the reply to the Queen and she just signed the warrant. She realised that no other official would take the risk. It was drafted (by Robert Beale) in such a way that even signed it was still useless. Elizabeth told him to tell Walsingham saying "the *shock* would go near to kill him outright".¹⁹⁷

The shock being she had made a decision quick! Davison also sent the warrant to have the great seal attached. Next morning, Elizabeth played hell with him for having done so. She only sees the signed warrant as some kind of tactic to put of Catholic conspirators.¹⁹⁸ With the seal attached it was a deadly piece of paper. Though Elizabeth knew this, she wouldn't have believed what happened next. Davison was so concerned, at the ticking off, a meeting with ten Privy Councillors, Cecil being one, was called. I doubt they were fully aware of the way Elizabeth felt. Being more concerned with either their own necks or the Queen's safety. They decided the warrant could be sent without that authority, I believe, Cecil advised them it could be done under the 1585 Act. The question is did they have the right to send it on? I surmise that if the Queen had known this was going to happen then she would have not let that warrant out of her sight.

Shrewsbury had come to Fotheringhay for Mary's trial and was still present when the warrant arrived. Actually he was joint commander in the execution. He in this role saw Mary executed on the 8th of February 1587, but it brought him no pleasure, as

bad as Stuart had been to him, some say he was in tears. Well not really, it turns out that Antonia Fraser invented the tale. It's a wonder she wasn't given the red card from the academics, for that! Mind you I found out that from James Mackay, whose side is he on? The pro-Mary lobby are nearly as two faced as Mary was!¹⁹⁹

Elizabeth didn't find out till much later. There is an account of the deed in Cecil's own handwriting who wrote it, as he would speak it, for instance instead of writing "When she came" he writes "Whan she cam". This shows his accent and I believe for him to do this document personally, shows that he was the one that told Elizabeth. Much of the gory details are left out, like the dog hidden under her dress, the executioners several strokes, and the wig detaching from the head as it was lifted up. This revealed that her hair had gone white, which I believe, put with the other ailments, she said or displayed puts her illness down to a Thyroid problem, which would be common in women her age as it is now.²⁰⁰

Once our history degree people get hold of something they go do wrong paths, believing things that have no connection to the truth whatsoever. Mary's common link with mad King George means she is a suspected carrier of the well-known illness he is supposed to have had. So she too must have had the madness sickness. Expert doctors appear to be as bad as academic historians. If you're lucky to meet one let me know especially if you find any that has NEVER made an error in their lives, you wont so don't bother to look. Then you'll beg my forgiveness for taking any of their views of the illness that Mary Stuart suffered, with a pinch of salt. Most doctors these days do tend to see people who have been treated by medical techniques and drugs. We are currently being blasted by every injection, pill that medical science can throw at us, from birth. Tudor people

weren't. They had complications to complications from any sickness they had. Diet was not good, even for the rich. A modern doctor would be completely out of their depth dealing with the vast majority of Tudor people, even if they had a fully equipped up to date hospital. This is why it's so problematic dealing with somebody's health from that period, when all you have got are written symptoms. This clearly applies to Mary Stuart. They aren't even proper descriptions. Some are described, in Mary's situation, as illnesses, which now have new names and are not what she was suffering from anyway. Many symptoms are common to any number of ailments. They could be unique like Mary having a kidney problem, or a complication. I am no medical person, so what I have done is look at what might cause certain conditions she had. These are the symptoms Mary had:

1. Fever/sweating excessively during hot weather.
2. Vomiting.
3. Visual problem.
4. Fits.
5. Vast amounts of energy, sometimes resulting in collapse (when young).
6. Little energy being near cripple (aged 30+).
7. Hair whitening (30+).
8. Non regular symptom pattern.
9. Stress (tears).
10. A miscarriage.

Using no more than a simple guide I've established that all these can be put down to an Overactive Thyroid (hyperthyroidism).²⁰¹ See Appendix for more details.

Back to her death, some of the other execution details of the Scottish Queen also cast light on things at one time held sacrosanct. These descriptions, coming from Richard Wingfield, fit in with a drawing done around or at the time. He maintains there were two executioners, for one had to hold Mary's head. As the block was low down on the ground, yet why was this

needed? So maybe Mary had a nervous/panic attack, which might explain the botched job, plus the lips still moving afterwards.²⁰³ Another thing I don't understand is how the dog stayed undetected when she laid chest down on the floor, plus avoided being crushed. My explanation is that it ran on unseen by those transfixed by the death scene. People's perception of time in these circumstances can change. All sorts of things could have taken place without many people aware of it, especially after the traumatic event they had seen. The decapitated head was left (I believe) a short while, for any blood to drain out, before someone picked it up. For Richard says that the dog settled itself between the shoulders and the head. It was reported that it died later.²⁰⁴

What Elizabeth was told are mostly the events leading up to the beheading, though Cecil does say that there was a handkerchief tied round her eyes. We also learn it was done on a Wednesday at 11 o'clock.²⁰⁵ By the nature of this statement it could have been read in the presence of the court with the Queen sat on the throne. We know she lost control of her temper and was grief stricken. This was genuine I will argue, not put on, though it looks contrived, to a lot of historians. I don't think anyone in that room for instance would have doubted it for one second. She went on even to give her a royal funeral, although she didn't attend. This would have cost £110,000 at today's prices. Mary did try to have her killed! Mary's servants did not appreciate it, nor Elizabeth taking most, but not all of Mary's jewels. She did this possibly as a keepsake.

In revenge of her own officials meddling in things they shouldn't, many of her own court were arrested. Yet, like Cecil had said, the Queen's authority wasn't needed. However Davison was sent to the Tower and Cecil lost a great deal of power.²⁰⁶ Walsingham is said to have died a poor man, mostly because of

his involvement. For Elizabeth, who never really liked him, liked him even less afterwards. The only thing that could be called a reprisal from anyone or anything was the armada the Spanish sent and that fate would bring Mary's body to rest in Westminster Abbey, alongside Elizabeth's. However Spain's intention, anyway, was to send the fleet of ships and Mary's body removal occurred after the Queen's death in 1603. Still ironic retaliation was visited on Mary just a few years ago, when Scotland's museums refused to bid for the documents relating to her death and the Church of England got them instead.

The execution did not affect Elizabeth's popularity. People still said she was beautiful even in her sixties and Elizabeth saying she never was, but had that reputation. Modern historians refer to her old age and beauty as a 'cult'.²⁰⁷ I find this somewhat odd and annoying. We have paintings of her, showing the Queen as beautiful, and people saying she was and our historians saying it was a cult. Regardless of ideas or people's personalities, as I have shown with Mary Stuart and relating back to my forward at the start of this book. My verdict is that Mary Stuart was in reality a very dangerous woman, if not a psychopath, whose hatred was laid on someone who wished her no harm. If that indeed was the case, then a mystery can still be a mystery even with facts that contradict it, especially when academics have their way with our history.

"Guilty as charged".

APPENDIX

MARY STUART'S SICKNESS

The Thyroid Gland controls the metabolism, therefore would have a wide-ranging effects on Mary Stuart, also the disorder runs in families, being more common in women. It is not possible to predict who would suffer from it even now, so fits in with the random nature that is also suggested for her and other relations having Porphyria. Like that of the previous mentioned disorder, it occurs under stressful moments, which she suffered a plenty with, people dying and that type of thing.

The type she suffered from (hyperthyroidism) I believe would cause her to perspire excessively during warm weather, which was diagnosed at the time as fever. She would have sweated a lot! This might explain why she took lots of baths, these being uncommon then. The energy she had would make her appear like an athlete on steroids. Then as the hormones, which are incidentally are made up of Iodine, affect the heart, she would collapse in a heap on the floor. Mary even fell from her horse several times, once when it was stood still. This affect would be seen when young and as she went to trial she couldn't even get out of the chair, being what this illness does at that age. Sadly it would also cause her to miscarry Bothwell's (twin) children. Bursting into tears, visual problems, due to swelling around the eyes are symptoms of this disorder, she was prone to them as well, she was hungry a lot from it, then would need to use the toilet a lot. No wonder Tutbury Castle ponged!

Lastly it runs in an un-predictive pattern and also can cause loss of hair colouring (white hairs are dead). This last symptom

is not present (as far as I am aware) in Porphyria. This affectively rules out this disorder coming from her; though most medical historians have ruled it out anyway.

If she had a swelling of her neck, this would be proof positive that she had this ailment. Of course they all wore ruffs and these are uncomfortable to wear, so she might not have noticed it, or put it down to wearing them. Nobody would have seen any swelling (called a goitre) because of the ruffs. If it were large she would have hidden it anyway, due to self-consciousness of her appearance. Her body was placed in a lead coffin; it was found but never opened. It could reveal facts about this sickness; so far nobody has been granted permission to examine the body. Even if they did, the testing of the D.N.A. may not be possible due to decay factors.

Postscript Turns out that goitres only rarely occur in the overactive state!

MARY'S MADNESS

Psychopaths are much more frequent than people believe. Needless to say they are not all the dangerous types that make news-headlines. The vast majority of people having this condition will never murder anyone, or even consider doing it. The condition affects a person's behaviour and emotions, with the affect of giving the person a self-gratification complex. Most will tend to use people for their own ends. In Mary's case she has used every trick in the book to achieve what she wanted; whilst she lacked morals or any sense of conscience. For instance she was more concerned with herself than those sticking their necks out for her.

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1. Wolsey died shortly after staying at Sheffield Manor, where he had contracted food poisoning, due to him living near the site toilet. He did NOT slit his throat.
2. *Featured in main text.*
3. The reason that some parts of the bible are very contradictory in what is said comes about from being made up by different people's views.
4. Large amounts were spent on fortifications!
5. The English and French Courts were always in competition for which was the grandest, generally the French won.
6. This 'evil' took the form of witchcraft he thought.
7. Williams, *Henry* P142.
8. Now called the Prime Minster.
9. More to do with age than being liked, I suspect and the judgement on Mary as being a bastard.
10. All except French, where she made a few mistakes.
11. Her age is not known for certain, but she would be around 60 in 1558.
12. Rice P69.
13. Plowden P31.
14. Plowden P30. Also if you look at Edward's portraits he looks thin and sickly.
15. Plowden P31.
16. I came to that conclusion around 1992, before I read any other writer expressing it.
17. Tonge P14.
18. Somerset P18.
19. Plowden (Young) P87.
20. Nobody knows for certain how long afterwards the girl, named Mary, lived.
21. Plowden P36.
22. Somerset P22.
23. Plowden P38.
24. Somerset P23.
25. Somerset P23.

26. Most of the Tudor family had large dogs, often Greyhounds, or hunting type dogs.
27. Williams P25.
28. She then would need a source of information, unless Seymour was stupid enough to tell her! Parry, Ashley, even Cecil could have told her, perhaps another unknown servant.
29. This is the only way we know what happened!
30. Erickson *Bloody Mary* P260.
31. Longford P221.
32. Erickson *Bloody Mary* P270.
33. Erickson *Bloody Mary* P272 (My emphasis).
34. Strong (Portraits) P9.
35. This depends on when the Middle English word changed its meaning. Even then it could have been mistaken for blond.
36. Some women today feel they are not attractive, even when they are and no-one can convince them. Proof appears not to change their view.
37. Erickson *Bloody Mary* P306.
38. Williams P27.
39. Official figure £700,000. Erickson *Bloody Mary* P340.
40. Plowden (Young) P145.
41. Calais in France was held by England.
42. Courtenay, I like to believe was also of interest to Elizabeth, from the gossip around I've picked up on, nothing however to do with overthrowing the Queen though.
43. Williams P29.
44. Williams P33.
45. A wall was reported to be speaking out against the Queen; it wasn't, for it was a hidden man.
46. Ross P124.
47. Williams P36.
48. Reported by the contemporary historian William Camden. Graves PP 4 -5.
49. See the *Tudor Constitution* by G.R. Elton for fuller information on their economy.
50. Neale P107 (1563).
51. Strong & Oman P43. Also her father is known to have been short-sighted and she may have inherited this from him.

52. There are two versions of a letter to the Earl of Shrewsbury about the Earl of Leicester. One is so silly it wasn't sent, with remarks about feeding him a Wren's leg, a thimble of wine! See also Rice P49.
53. Osbourne P204 (Melvill, Hume comments)
54. *Featured in main text.*
55. Rice P90.
56. She had also been pestered by marriage offers before.
57. Count de Feria was the ambassador.
58. Williams P52.
59. Williams P54.
60. Luke P72.
61. Robert met her during the rebellion in Norfolk in 1549. It's rumoured to be love at first sight.
62. Bassnett P45.
63. 'Time' is probably better for the modern reader than the original 'leisure'. Elizabeth also added it would have been a 'dishonourable life.'
64. Luke P87.
65. She died in 1565.
66. Robsart, her maiden name. She fell down stone stairs, causing two dents on her head.
67. Read P202.
68. Strong & Oman P54.
69. Read P202.
70. Oddly he could have married her when she was not Queen, for the aristocratic class did not see that as social climbing.
71. Rowse P43.
72. Cheetham P3.
73. Most of the Scottish servants sent with Mary needed a good wash according to one French Duchess. They were sent to various places to get rid of them.
74. Fraser P128.
75. Mackay P47.
76. Of a possibly infection of his ear.
77. As well as other things. Plus the death of her Mother in Scotland might have forced her back.
78. Mackay P59.
79. Sometimes spelt Rizzio.
80. Rice P65 (Maitland's reply was longer, but this is the gist of it.

81. Rice P65 (Elizabeth's reply is also long and this is the important part).
82. Fraser P129.
83. Rice P66 (She rambled on a bit here also - though I have kept to the spirit of the text).
84. Rice P67.
85. Rice PP 67-70.
86. Frances Sydney might well have been the Queen's stand in, for paintings of the Queen, till this.
87. Modern research on genes suggest that some people can have inbuilt defence to some germs and survive things that would kill others.
88. Williams P61.
89. This got Robert out of the marriage plan too.
90. Astrologers then had no opposition to them predicting things, even if they got things wrong. Simon Forman even made predictions about death and the age it would happen.
91. Marshall PP 90-91.
92. Some Historians suggest he was strangled, but the drawing Cecil is sent shows no sign of this, plus witness statements although not very clear, rule it out.
93. James was born 19th June 1566.
94. Steel P60.
95. This kind of loyalty still exists today in some royal servants.
96. These are indeed not present.
97. These measurements are based on guesswork, assuming Darnley was 6 feet tall.
98. We can dismiss the statement that he recovered enough to walk around.
99. Ridley P148.
100. Read P383 July 27th.
101. Read P383 Possibly Read's own opinion on the papers. Cal S.P. Scottish 1563-69.
102. Rowse P48.
103. Ridley P148.
104. Throckmorton's word not mine. Rowse P48.
105. Mackay P221. She lost the baby a few weeks later.
106. Her son was crowned King, at Stirling during this time.
107. He seems to have preferred the spelling of 'Stewart'
108. Leader P3.

109. To Cecil 11 June, Leader PP4/5.
110. Given to Mary by Francis.
111. Leader P11.
112. Leader P28 - Jan 28th.
113. Leader P161.
114. Edwards P89.
115. I came to this conclusion after watching the TV drama *The Bill*. The person under protection also resented it, treated as if they had done the crime, the witness said.
116. Rawson P43.
117. Rawson P43.
118. Rawson P46. In fact he wrote only one letter with all the messages on.
119. Leader P22.
120. 'Melancholy' can be translated as depression in this context.
121. Leader P34, 15th Feb. 1569.
122. Leader P59.
123. Mary's description of Tutbury is used in most books about her, or in reference, I looked it up in Durant P61.
124. They can't light the fires due to the risk of the building burning down. It's all a question of having damp or no building.
125. Forde-Johnston PP182-5.
126. Sadler's notes taken from Mosley P185.
127. Mosley P194.
128. Mosley P168.
129. Grant P48.
130. It was an offence to marry any member of the Royal Family, without permission of the Queen.
131. Leader P90 (Oct. 10th).
132. Fraser P497.
133. These were the Earl of Sussex's thoughts as well.
134. Black P68.
135. Williams P100.
136. Williams P96.
137. Leader P105.
138. Rowse P35.
139. Collinson P19.

140. Leader P108. Either the weight or a large barrel. The word has its origins in the barrel.
141. Leader P117.
142. Leader put renouncing here - P118.
143. Leader PP132/3.
144. Leader P133. This is extracted from a letter to Cecil Oct. 5th 1570.
145. Ronksley PP47-8.
146. Edwards PP100/102.
147. Edwards P92.
148. Edwards P101.
149. Leader PP193/4.
150. Leader P195.
151. Edwards P123.
152. Edwards P136.
153. Edwards P91.
154. Leader P240 said to Ralph Sadler.
155. Rawson P89 - This scene was watched by Ralph Sadler, following the orders given more closely than Talbot did, about people seeing Mary.
156. Leader P208.
157. Leader P208.
158. Leader P272.
159. Leader P273. It is actually written; 'All men now cry out of your prisoner.' This does not make much sense and must be an error on someone's part.
160. Leader P256.
161. Meals were served like Chinese meals are served today.
162. Leader P275.
163. Sometimes called Manor Castle, it does have a complete building called the 'Turret House.' However it's been neglected for some time, with neither the City Council, or the Duke of Norfolk, interested in it or English Heritage. All of which are responsible for it. This is now changing. At the time of writing a 'friends group' are struggling over the site and what happens to it, having got money to carry out improvements, they have recently built a visitor centre now open to the public.
164. This was not a racial slur, as these ambassadors were held in high regard.
165. Rawson P101.
166. Rawson P103 & Leader P290.

167. Leader P298.
168. Rawson P111.
169. Leader P439. The family were only supposed to have limited contact.
170. Rawson P221.
171. Erickson PP326-329.
172. Leader P457.
173. Leader P457.
174. In My End is My Beginning Mackay P271.
175. Conference held May 1582. Black PP360/1.
176. Rowse P101.
177. Black P361.
178. Rowse P101.
179. Black P363.
180. Collinson P50.
181. Leader P563.
182. Leader P608 - William Fleetwood, Recorder of London, writing to Cecil, Oct. 1584.
183. Collinson PP50-53.
184. This is despite having been put in the Tower over arranged marriages without Royal consent.
185. Talbot's tomb also shows he fought in Scotland and how the Court saw his role in looking after Mary. Clearly this evidence was ignored when historians called Stuart a prisoner.
186. Glasheen P45.
187. Rice P88 - Elizabeth in reply to petition urging execution MQS. Walsingham may have let this take place, but more likely it was bungled by his agents!
188. Glasheen P40.
189. Collinson P55.
190. Singh P40. A fuller translation that I have recently seen backs Singh up; this piece is a postscript after Mary's signature.
191. Haynes P75.
192. Dumas.
193. Rice P92.
194. Rice P95.
195. 1 She lived in Elizabeth's realm and was therefore a 'private person'.
2 If deposed she can't be called Queen. 3 If not deposed she can commit treason.

196. Williams Queen's Men P202.
197. Luke P537 - 'shock' replaces 'grief thereof,' which better suits the context.
198. Was this the other way? If it is then she did not make it clear to her own people. It was unlikely to have worked, for plotters were using Mary for their own ends.
199. Mackay P314. It's in the notes, number 20.
200. Maybe why she was tall too!
201. *Thyroid Disorders* by Dr. Anthony Toft.
202. Records show that a man named Bull was dispatched in secret to execute her. He was the top executioner at the Tower and was paid around £2000 in currant money values.
203. Most likely uncontrollable by Mary.
204. I understand it was a Skye Highland Terrier.
205. Collinson P58/9.
206. Williams Queen's Men P203/4.
207. Roy Strong constantly pushes this idea and made a book on it.



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Elizabeth I & Mary Stuart questions methods of research and study by all academics such as David Starkey, Alison Weir and many others.

Graham Appleyard's ideas query the privileged access that these people can get. He claims University trained historians are misleading the public, in their understanding. All of them present these two Queens in a false way.

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Struggling to write because of a hands problem. "I've a hand speed 70% slower than the average person has." Deprived of money to live on by the Blair Government and still solved the problems that Oxford and Cambridge professionals struggled with.

That's Graham Appleyard!

Front Cover Pictures: Elizabeth I, Simon Wingfield Digby, Sherbourne Castle.
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